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Reportage on Jakarta Conference on Cambodia

Overview of Goals for Talks

BK2402053090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 24 Feb 90

[By Alain Boebion]

Text] Jakarta, Feb 24 (AFP)—Last week's meeting between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen has given fresh impetus to the latest Cambodian peace talks due to start here Monday [26 February] and raised hopes for a breakthrough. The three-day informal talks, the third on Cambodia to be held here, will focus on Australia's proposal for the United Nations to form an interim administration in Phnom Penh pending general elections, diplomats said.

The talks bring together the four warring Cambodian factions, Laos, Vietnam, Australia, France and the six non-communist Southeast Asian states—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. A U.N. representative, Rafuddin Ahmed, is to attend the opening session.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said on arriving here Friday [23 February] that no-one was expecting "a really dramatic breakthrough" during the talks, held under the aegis of the Paris conference which ended in stalemate when the Cambodian groups could not agree on the formation of a transitional government.

"We just have to hope they (the talks) will result in a significant step forward," Mr. Evans said. But Indonesian and Western diplomats were more optimistic and noted positive signs from the meeting in Bangkok on Wednesday [21 February] between resistance leader Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen, prime minister of the Phnom Penh government.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has been discreet on his own assessment of the chances of success here but the informal meeting on Cambodia should put the peace process back on course and see the Australian plan "put on the rails," according to an informed Indonesian source.

"The least that one can expect from Jakarta is for all the parties to accept with one voice the presence of the United Nations, which they seem to have agreed on individually," a Western diplomat said. He and other diplomats also said the Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting was valuable as it had relaunched a dialogue between the rival Cambodian sides in time for the informal talks here.

The two men said they had agreed on the formation of a supreme national body to end Cambodia's decade-long war—the closest the two leaders have come to uniting to govern together. More cautious analysts here said the announcement was not new as the two had broached the subject during their fourth meeting, which took place here in May.

Indonesian sources said the United Nations role would be at the centre of the talks Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and following on naturally would be the U.N. link to the proposed supreme national body council and the global organisation's part in organising elections.

Participants would also study all the paperwork on the Cambodia problem that emerged from the earlier peace talks here and in Paris as well as deliberations by the five members of the U.N. Security Council and a 200-page presentation of the Australian plan, they said. A 40-page outline of the Australian plan proposes setting up a special United Nations Cambodia task force.

It would have three branches responsible for adminstration, elections and ensuring a ceasefire and supervising any accord reached between the Cambodian factions, according to a copy of the document seen here.

The task force would be based in Cambodia and headed by a special representative to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar with the branches under three deputies.

Australia also believes the Cambodian U.N. seat, currently held by the tripartite resistance, should be either declared vacant or held by the proposed national supreme council.

At the interim administrative level, the Canberra document proposes either that U.N. officials take over government totally or set up structures working parallel to or underneath those now in place.

Australia believes the U.N. should have total responsibility for organising and holding elections and also backs the dispatch of a U.N. military force to Cambodia to enforce the ceasefire, withdrawal of "foreign forces" and cessation of overseas military aid to the warring factions. In the resistance alongside Prince Sihanouk's forces are the Khmer Rouge, former brutal rulers of Cambodia, and the nationalists under Son Sann.

Alatas Defines Framework

BK2502055990 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has reiterated that the informal meeting on Cambodia scheduled to be held in Jakarta beginning tomorrow for three days, will still be within the framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

The meeting will be co-chaired by Indonesia and France to keep up with new developments in efforts to find a breakthrough to settle the Cambodian problem. Australia's proposal for UN involvement in Cambodia's administration in the interim before general elections is one of the new developments.

In a meeting with newspaper editors and reporters in Jakarta last night, Minister Ali Alatas welcomed the accord reached between Prince Sihanouk and Phnom

Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen in Bangkok. Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen had agreed on the formation of a supreme national body of Cambodia. In addition, they agreed on a UN role in solving the Cambodian conflict at appropriate levels in Cambodia.

Minister Alatas expressed hope that the informal meeting on Cambodia will give rise to several major issues that would support the need for the resumption of the Paris international conference.

Khieu Samphan, Son Sann Arrive

BK2502112890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 25 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said Sunday that Vietnam holds the key to regional talks on Cambodia opening in the Indonesian capital on Monday.

"The outcome of this meeting depends entirely on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," Mr. Khieu Samphan said in a statement given to reporters at Jakarta airport.

Former Cambodian Premier Son Sann, a Khmer Rouge ally in a loose resistance coalition which also includes forces loyal to former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said he hoped the meeting would pave the way for a resumption of the stalled Paris international peace conference. Both Mr. Son Sann and Mr. Khieu Samphan referred to reports that some Vietnamese troops had returned to Cambodia to help out the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh after their official withdrawal in September. The two resistance leaders and Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila arrived in Jakarta Sunday. Mr. Sitthi issued no statement on arrival.

The head of the third resistance faction delegation, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk's son, was due on Monday, as were Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen and the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos and France. Foreign ministers of Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand were also to join host Indonesia, their partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), their Australian counterpart and a United Nations envoy for the Jakarta talks.

"More than anyone else, we as victims of Vietnamese invasion and occupation wish ardently to resolve as soon as possible and by political means this tragic problem," Mr. Khieu Samphan's arrival statement said. He was referring to Vietnam's late 1978 invasion of Cambodia to topple the Khmer Rouge regime which Hanoi accused of acts of genocide in its rule of nearly four years.

Mr. Khieu Samphan said Prince Sihanouk had put forward a five-point peace plan which, among other things, sought verification of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal and would give the United Nations "a determinant role" in the peace process.

Khieu Samphan Arrival Statement

BK2602012590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 90 p 2

[By Anurat Maniphan]

[Text] Jakarta—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan made clear here yesterday that he remained in favour of an interim government made up of all four Cambodian factions operating "on an equal footing."

He reiterated his position in an arrival statement by drawing attention to provisions for three key issues under the five-point peace plan of Cambodian resistance coalition president Prince Norodom Sihanouk—provisional government, United Nations role and withdrawal of Vietnamese forces.

The plan "accepts to put on an equal footing within a provisional quadripartite government the patriots and those who have collaborated with the invader and occupier," the statement said.

It "entrusts the United Nations a determinant role in ensuring the smooth proceeding of the whole peace process since the beginning through to the end," it added.

It "demands nothing that belongs to Vietnam, not even war damage, but only asks for a complete and verified withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia," it said.

The Khmer Rouge leader, who is vice president for foreign affairs of the resistance coalition, thanked Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas for "his tireless efforts" for peace in Cambodia.

But he noted that peace should be "just" and "durable" and a solution "comprehensive."

The Khmer Rouge previously refused to attend the informal meeting on Cambodia (IMC) but eventually agreed provided the talks covered the prince's five-point peace plan.

Khieu Samphan said the outcome of the meeting "depends entirely upon the Socialist Republic of Vietnam."

In separate documents, the Khmer Rouge claimed that a total of 19,360 fresh Vietnamese troops had been sent into Cambodia in the three months after the unverified withdrawal.

With maps pin-pointing the positions of the new troops, the Khmer Rouge claimed that 1,290 were sent in October, 14,270 in November and another 2,000 in December.

The largest concentration is said to be in the northwestern province of Battambang where 6,150 troops are claimed to have been positioned.

Other relatively large centres of fresh Vietnamese troops were claimed in an area south of Phnom Penh—5,600, Tbeng Meanchey in the northern province of Preah Vihear—2,000, and Kompong Thom further south—1,560.

The Khmer Rouge, whose claims are said to be exaggerated but based on fact, said another 1,000 were sent into Battambang and 180 to Kratie from February 1-9 this year.

Hanoi said the last of its troops left Cambodia on September 26 last year but the departure has not been independently confirmed.

The Khmer Rouge, who were toppled by a Vietnamese-led offensive in January 1979, and their resistance partners maintain that they are fighting a war of "liberation" from Vietnam.

Ranariddh Arrives in Jakarta

BK2602073590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Feb 26 (AFP)—Resistance leader Prince Ranariddh arrived here Monday [26 February] to represent his father Prince Norodom Sihanouk at Cambodian peace talks and called for the United Nations to have a major role in any settlement to the 11-year conflict.

The United Nations "must play a real, major role in Cambodia not only to supervise elections but also to check that Vietnamese forces (have left), and to administer Cambodia," Mr. Ranariddh said. The resistance coalition had long demanded that the United Nations take on this task "and we are happy to see that all parties, including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, agree on that point," he said.

"There must be a dismantling of all the government and administration of the present regime and of our regime," he said, adding that a proposed supreme national council had to group all four warring factions in order to bring about national reconciliation.

Mr. Ranariddh said his father had agreed on these points at a meeting with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen last week when the two men announced the setting up [of] a supreme national council grouping the four factions and providing for the United Nations to take on a transitional role. He said he wanted the UN role to be "very temporary" pending elections but gave no specific time-frame.

Asked about reports of Vietnamese troops returning to Cambodia after their announced withdrawal in September, Mr. Ranariddh said they believed Hanoi's forces had remained and were very active inside the country.

The three-day peace talks get underway here late Monday amid reports of increased fighting in Cambodia as Phnom Penh forces take the offensive against resistance guerrillas, especially in the northwest of the country. [passage omitted]

Prince Ranariddh Details Issues

BK2602105090 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1009 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (OANA-ANTARA)—FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the pro-Sihanouk, Cambodian faction has came up with three main issues to be settled through a compromise in the informal meeting on Cambodia (IMC) now underway in the Indonesian capital city.

The three issues include a demand for the dismantlement of the two Cambodian governments, an aspect which has become a major obstacle in the efforts to settle the Cambodian conflict, chief delegate of the FUNCIPEC to the IMC, Prince Ranariddh said here Monday [26 February].

Prince Ranariddh further said that the other two issues were the recognition on the role of the UN in settling the conflict which has affected the South-east Asian nation for almost twelve years and the setting up of a supreme national council (SNC). The SNC, he said, will simply play the role of a symbol of the Cambodian sovereignity.

The prince also said that the SNC would take over the seat of the Coalition Government of Democratic Cambodia (CGDC) in the UN which so far had been led by Prince Sihanouk. "I think we would achieve something if only we could reach a compromise on the three issues," he added.

The SNC, as a result of the meeting between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk in Bangkok last week, would comprise the four conflicting factions in Cambodia so that a national "reconciliation" could be reached.

Prince Ranariddh further said that he always supported every initiative aimed at reaching a settlement to the Cambodian problem, be it in Jakarta or in other cities. From the beginning his faction has always been eager to see a bigger role of the UN in settling the Cambodian problem, not only in the supervision of general elections scheduled to be held in the country, but also in the monitoring of the Vietnamese troops withdrawal.

The UN is also expected by the FUNCINPEC to run the provisional administration in Cambodia, the prince said.

Asked on the difference between the SNC and the UN on things concerning the provisional administration, Prince Ranariddh said that the UN must play a "central role" in Cambodia. "SNC, however, must also be set up to maintain the continuation of the Cambodian sovereignity," he said.

ASEAN Ministers Arrive 26 Feb

BK2602102490 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0952 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (OANA-ANTARA)—The ASEAN foreign ministers have expressed their optimism that the informal meeting on Cambodia (IMC), due to be officially opened here on Monday [26 February] evening, has to make some progress because failure in doing so will only complicate a solution to the Cambodian conflict.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar upon his arrival at the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport here on Monday firmly said, "Malaysia sees only two more meetings on Cambodia."

The first meeting, according to the Malaysian minister, is the informal meeting on Cambodia (IMC) in Jakarta and the international conference on Cambodia (ICC) in Paris. The IMC, scheduled to last from 26 to 28 February, is intended to take [as received] a chance for the conflicting parties in Cambodia to seek a compromise before the resumption of the Paris meeting.

The ICC in Paris last August failed to reach an agreement for a solution to the Cambodian conflict and gave a mandate to its joint chairmen, Indonesia and France, to continuously keep alive discussions among conflicting factions in the Cambodian issue.

Philippines Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus, who arrived after his Malaysian counterpart, also expressed optimism that the solution to the Cambodian issue was imminent. He said that all concerned parties in the Cambodian issue, including ASEAN, had shown more open attitude. He cited as an example that the Hun Sen side had accepted the presence of the United Nations in an effort to seek a solution to the Cambodian conflict.

Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng and his Brunei counterpart Pengiran Mohamed Bolkiah said that there were no reasons to be pessimistic.

Answering a question on whether Brunei is to extend contribution for financing the UN-sponsored provisional government of Cambodia if the plan was agreed by the IMC in Jakarta, Pengiran Bolkiah said that he would make the contribution with the consent of other ASEAN countries.

The Jakarta informal meeting on Cambodia is scheduled to be jointly chaired by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Hun Sen Arrives, Expresses Optimism

BK2702045890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] According to a representative of the Cambodian news agency SPK, Comrade Chairman Hun Sen arrived in Jakarta in the afternoon of 26 February to attend the informal meeting on Cambodia to be held that afternoon in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Comrade Chairman Hun Sen led a delegation of the State of Cambodia comprising 20 members, including, among others, Comrade Hor Nam Hong, minister assistant to the chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Dit Munti, first deputy foreign minister; Comrade Cham Prasit, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers cabinet; Comrade Sok An, deputy foreign minister; and Comrade Chem Snguon, deputy justice minister.

Speaking to reporters and cameramen upon arriving at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport, Comrade Chairman Hun Sen expressed optimism over the informal meeting on Cambodia which, in his view, is in line with recent developments in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. The comrade also said he wants to discuss the Cambodian problem on the basis of Australia's peace proposal.

Nguyen Co Thach, Hun Sen Comment

BK2602121490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Feb 26 (AFP)—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach denied here Monday [26 February] that Hanoi had sent troops back into Cambodia after announcing their official withdrawal last September. Asked to comment on reports that Vietnamese troops had returned to support Phnom Penh forces in the face of a sustained guerrilla offensive, Mr. Thach said: "We have withdrawn and we have never come back."

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, who arrived in Jakarta with Mr. Thach for a fresh round of regional talks on a Cambodian peace settlement, said he was "more optimistic than last time" that progress could be achieved.

"We cannot solve the problem in one round of talks, but I'm sure we can reach basic agreement on some major issues, and we can return to the Paris conference," he said. Both men said that an Australian proposal circulated widely ahead of the Jakarta meeting would form the basis for discussions here.

"The Australian proposal is the basis for negotiation. I have no other proposal," Mr. Thach told reporters at the airport. He said Hanoi accepted the idea of a transitional United Nations role in Cambodia as well as a proposal for a supreme council for national reconciliation grouping Phnom Penh and the resistance.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, fresh from a visit to Vietnam, arrived a short time later in Jakarta but made no statement. [passage omitted]

Australian Foreign Minister Arrives

BK2402105890 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0729 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 24 (OANA/ANTARA)—Australian Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans has said that he probably will discuss the problem of Indonesia's digital telephone system (STDI-II) with Indonesian officials in order to open the possibility for Ericson (Australia) to compete in the STDI tender.

"I hope to get the opportunity to put forward the Australian Government's view to help Ericson win the STDI tender which is a very substantial and important

financial contract," he said to the press on arrival here on Friday [23 February] evening.

Evans further said that although at present only two contenders remained, AT&T from the United States and NEC from Japan, the offer of the Australian firm would be very competitive in technical quality as well as in financial package. He went on to say that several days ago he contacted the Indonesian ambassador in Canberra to inquire about the possibility of raising the STDI problem in Jakarta.

"My visit to Jakarta is in fact not for bilateral problems, but to discuss the Cambodian problem," he said. Evans is here to attend the informal meeting on Cambodia which is scheduled for February 26-28.

Evans Interviewed on Prospects

BK2602111390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 26 Feb 90

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The Australian foreign minister, Senator Evans, says there could be peace in Cambodia by the end of the year. Speaking in Jakarta just before the start of the latest round of peace talks, Senator Evans said he had an optimistic view of Australia's peace plan involving an interim United Nations administration.

Senator Evans' timetable for peace assumes that the warring factions will continue fighting until the end of the dry season in May and then resume detailed negotiations in Paris. The foreign minister told Graeme Dobell that Jakarta talks this week are an effort to get most of the parties in the conflict to endorse Australia's plan for peace.

[Begin recording] [Evans] Whether or not we get all the key players including the Khmer Rouge in line remains very much to be seen, but if we can get the other Cambodian parties, if we can get the ASEAN countries, if we can get the major regional players, all prepared to accept the single concept of the UN role—which is what the Australian proposal is all about—if we can get them to see the virtue and finally bring this to a conclusion in a sensible, comprehensive settlement that will not prejudice anyone's position, then we really will be making a major advance.

[Dobell] If the Khmer Rouge veto the UN idea, could they sink the plan?

[Evans] Well, I don't think anybody is too disposed to allow the Khmer Rouge to have a veto at the end of the day. They may, along the way, veto our capacity to produce agreed statements of meetings like this. At the end of the day, it really is a question of whether the Khmer Rouge is willing to stand out against the whole weight of international opinion, is willing to go it alone in an environment where they are being denied external support from their traditional friends and allies. What is really crucial is not so much the Khmer Rouge's own position but the position of countries like China that in the past has stood behind them and really what this whole negotiating, consensus building, settlement process is about is getting the Chinese and all other external players [words indistinct] patrons who are keeping this conflict alive, getting them to accept the virtue of a kind of face-saving formulae that we have come up with and getting it out of the game.

[Dobell] Is it realistic to expect (?Australia) to achieve peace for Cambodia?

[Evans] [Words indistinct] really want to achieve peace. This meeting can at best be a prelude for a resumed full-scale Paris conference which hopefully will produce, within a few months time, a comprehensive settlement agreed by everyone and which will allow the United Nations to play the role we all want it to play now, as a transition administration producing free and fair elections at the end of which we hopefully will have a sovereign, neutral Cambodia living in peace.

[Dobell] Is it realistic to think that the fighting might go on until, say May, the end of the dry season, Paris reconvenes, and that the UN idea could then go ahead and you could perhaps have an agreement by the end of the year?

[Evans] That is the kind of timetable that we have identified as being realistic (?and optimistic). Now, we have been optimistic before, of course, we have [word indistinct] these timetables before Paris conference last year, we were all deeply disappointed, we are not [words indistinct]. And certainly history is against any rapid and early solution of this. All one can say is that as history wears on with each passing year the exhaustion factor is getting greater, the willingness of the superpowers to continue to act as warring patrons in regional conflicts of this kind is rapidly diminishing, the environment is very much more favorable for a solution. What has been missing is the sort of creative scenario that will enable all these feelings to be channeled into actual compromised settlement formulae which are mutually acceptable. That has been the perceived virtue of the Australian proposal that [words indistinct] seen us as driving the process, but we have been regarded as a pretty useful (?mapmaker).

[Dobell] You have also spoken to the UN representative who will be attending the talks. What is the UN approach? How positive are they?

[Evans] [Words indistinct] the UN Secretariat is now showing many more signs of enthusiastic interest in the Australian proposal and in the idea of UN involvement than was the case just a few weeks or months ago. I think that is partly the function of the permanent five members of the United Nations having met and demonstrated a clear willingness to go down the path of UN involvement. So, it is all now looking rather real to them and they are tentatively exploring implications of the Australian proposal. They are working out programs for taking commissions and so on to come here to do detailed operational planning, they are looking at the

financial implications, and they have indicated to us that the order of magnitude in the Australian calculations as to the cost of various possible scenarios seem to them to be in the right [words indistinct] even indication that the idea of UN involvement [words indistinct] truly caught hold and will in fact be workable if only we can reach a political settlement in this process of which this week is part. [end recording]

Sources Report 'Sharp' Differences

BK2602100090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 26 Feb 90

[By Michele Cooper]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, Feb 26 (AFP)—Prospects for peace in Cambodia are expected to take at least a small step forward in Jakarta this week, where a fresh round of regional talks was opening here Monday [26 February]. Delegates to the talks expressed cautious optimism that the Jakarta meeting would be able to sketch the broad outlines of a transition to peace for the war-torn country, but with no agreement on difficult specifics. [passage omitted]

As the opening session approached, delegation sources said there were sharp differences over whether thorny issues of substance should even be broached, because of the risk of stalemate here.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas of host Indonesia told the local press it was crucial the talks should produce some kind of agreement. He was quoted as saying he hoped the factions could agree on a U.N. role, the setting up of a supreme national council and the council's composition, but even if they agreed only on the first two, "it would be a relief."

A Western diplomat said the meeting could be considered a success "if it leads at least to a resumption of the Paris conference format."

Delegates said details of a U.N. mandate would have to be worked out in a U.N. context, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council who back the various factions.

A key sticking point in Paris was likely to be once again arrangements for power-sharing among the factions ahead of elections, delegates here said. The Phnom Penh government would accept a 50-50 division with the resistance, while the guerrilla coalition wants equal representation for each of the three resistance factions with Phnom Penh, the delegates said. [passage omitted]

Australia Proposes UN Force

BK2602115090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (AFP)—Australia proposed Monday [26 February] that a United Nations interim force of more than 12,000 people be posted in Cambodia to administer the country and organize the election of a new government. A document distributed here just hours before new peace talks on Cambodia were to begin said the operation would cost 987 million to 1.3 billion U.S. dollars depending on whether it lasted a year or 18 months.

The U.N. Security Council has estimated the cost of such an operation at two billion to five billion dollars. The Australian document said that a force of 12,910 people would be needed in Cambodia, including 5,500 soldiers, 2,500 police officers, 2,910 election officials and 1,280 civilian administrators.

The U.N. contingent in Namibia had 7,700 people in about the same proportions, Australian diplomats said, adding that it cost 416 million dollars over 12 months.

The 150-page Australian document was destined for the participants at the talks expected to begin Monday, including the four warring Cambodian factions, Vietnam, Laos, the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia and France.

Alatas Opens Conference 26 Feb

BK2602133090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (AFP)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas opened talks here late Monday [26 February] on settling the 11-year-old Cambodian conflict, warning of the dangers of another failure. Mr. Alatas told delegates that recent events warranted the reopening of the negotiation process, stalled after the Paris international peace conference failed in August to settle the crucial issue of a transitional government in Phnom Penh pending elections.

"We can ill-afford another deadlock at such a resumed (Paris) conference, jeopardising the very credibility of the negotiating process," Mr. Alatas said, urging careful preparations in Jakarta before returning to Paris. The talks, held under the aegis of the Paris conference co-chaired by France and Indonesia, had the modest and realistic aim of trying to bridge existing differences and move the peace process ahead, he said.

The informal meeting on Cambodia brings together the four warring Cambodian factions, Laos, Vietnam, France, Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Japan

Diet Reconvenes To Reelect Prime Minister

OW2702021890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0123 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—The Diet reconvened on Tuesday to reelect Toshiki Kaifu as prime minister. It will also choose a new speaker and vice speaker for the House of Representatives.

Kaifu, who steered the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] to victory in the February 18 general election for the lower house, is set to be reelected by both chambers of the Diet on Tuesday afternoon. The Kaifu Cabinet resigned shortly before the upper house went into session at 10 AM to pave the way for the election of the prime minister.

The newly-elected 512-member lower house was to gather at 1 PM. Yoshio Sakurauchi, a senior LDP politician and a former foreign minister, is set to be named as the house speaker, while Kiichi Murayama of the Japan Socialist Party, the top opposition group, is expected to become vice speaker.

With the LDP having won a solid majority in the February 18 lower house election, Kaifu is certain to win the nomination in the lower chamber. Kaifu is also expected to be nominated by the upper house even though the LDP lacks an overall majority as the opposition is not running a unified candidate. Kaifu, in consultation with top LDP executives, is expected to name a cabinet by Tuesday night, his second since he assumed office last August.

As with past LDP governments, Kaifu is expected launch a major overhaul of his outgoing 22-member cabinet.

Only two ministers—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto—are likely to remain in their posts. All other portfolios are expected to be reshuffled, reflecting factional strength within the party. The 118th Special Diet is scheduled to sit until June 26.

Kaifu plans to deliver a speech outlining government policy to the Diet on Friday in which he will list the major domestic and foreign policy objectives of his Government.

Debate on a controversial Consumption Tax introduced in April last year is expected to dominate the new Diet session, according to political analysts. The LDP, which has 286 seats in the lower house, says it plans to revise the 3 percent Consumption Tax, while the opposition, which controls the upper house, has vowed to kill it.

Other policy areas that are expected to pit the government party against the opposition include Japan's defense policy and external economic frictions as symbolized by the U.S.-Japan talks on structural impediments to trade and investment.

Kaifu Reelected by Both Houses

OW2702073090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0710 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who steered his ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] to victory in the February 18 general election for the House of Representatives, was reelected head of government at plenary sessions of both houses of the Diet on Tuesday. At a plenary session of the 512-seat lower house, Kaifu, who took office last August, garnered 286 votes out of the 508 cast, well above the needed majority, beating Japan Socialist Party [JSP] Chairwoman Takako Doi, who got 146 votes.

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida received 46 votes, Japan Communist Party Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa got 16, and Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Eiichi Nagasue got 14.

At a similiar prime ministerial election in the 252-seat House of Councillors, Kaifu and Doi went into a runoff election after an inconclusive first ballot. In the first round of balloting in the upper house, Kaifu obtained 110 votes of the 246 votes cast and Doi got 91. Ishida got 21 votes, Fuwa 14 votes and Nagasue 10 votes. In the runoff Kaifu garnered 111 votes while Doi got 91. There were 44 blank votes in the second round.

Prior to the prime ministerial ballot, the lower chamber took a separate vote to elect the new speaker and vice speaker. Former Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi, a 77-year-old veteran LDP politician, was unanimously elected speaker, and Kiichi Murayama, 68, of the JSP, became vice speaker. Sakurauchi and Miyazawa were both elected unopposed.

Sakurauchi succeeded Hajime Tamura, who had served as speaker until the house was dissolved on January 24.

Earlier in the day, the entire Kaifu cabinet resigned to pave the way for the prime minister to form a new cabinet.

Following his election as speaker, Sakurauchi resigned from the LDP to become an independent, while Murayama similiarly quit the JSP on becoming vice speaker.

Kaifu To 'Stress' Political, Tax Reforms

OW2602161190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1503 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will stress the need for fundamental political reforms, including electoral ones, and a revision of the consumption tax in a policy speech to be delivered on March 2, sources said Monday. In his speech in the Diet, Kaifu will express his resolve to introduce a single-seat electoral system pending the government's receipt of a report from an advisory panel.

On the unpopular 3 percent consumption tax introduced last April, Kaifu will tell the Diet that the people endorsed the levy by giving the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] a stable majority in the February 18 general election. He will ask the Diet for thorough discussion of a tax reform plan compiled by the LDP, which calls for a reduction of the tax to 1.5 percent for all foodstuffs at the producer and wholesale levels.

On land policies, Kaifu will appeal to the people that land should be used for public purposes and not be subject to speculative transactions. The prime minister will promise to revise the land tax system, regulate speculative land dealings, and promote supply of land for housing in metropolitan areas.

He will also promise to tackle rectifying the price gap in goods between Japan and foreign countries.

On foreign affairs, Kaifu will tell the Diet that he will strengthen Japan-U.S. relations as a "global partnership" through his planned trip to the United States on March 2-3. Kaifu will say that Japan will play a more active role in creating a new world order.

Kaifu is expected to be renamed as prime minister Tuesday in the special session of the Diet and to inaugurate his second cabinet the same day.

After making his policy speech on March 2, Kaifu will fly to Palm Springs, California, for talks with U.S. President George Bush.

Representatives from both the ruling and opposition parties will ask questions in the Diet on his policy speech between March 5 and 7.

Kaifu Said Planning To Strengthen Leadership

OW2702074990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Credited with the resounding victory of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the February 18 general election, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is expected to try to strengthen his position within his party and offer his own initiatives. Boyish-looking Kaifu, an eloquent speaker who lacks his own power base, has been regarded by the opposition as a puppet of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, to whom he owes his job.

The prime minister, who has power to dissolve the House of Representatives, was ignored recently by other party leaders on major decisions, including the date of the dissolution of the Diet. "Who made the decision (of the Diet dissolution)? I have not yet made a decision," Kaifu told journalists after newspapers had reported the general election would be held on February 18.

Against the backdrop of the LDP's overwhelming victory in the general election, a confident Kaifu hastily arranged a summit meeting with U.S. President George Bush in Palm Springs, California, on March 2-3, responding to Bush's proposal.

Kaifu intends to emphasize his foreign diplomacy ability through the summit meeting by easing strained economic relations between Japan and the United States. He served twice as education minister before becoming premier and lacks experience in foreign affairs and economic policy. He had not served in top party posts.

Hoping to establish a "clean image" in the government, Kaifu rejected an offer from former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe to have Recruit-tainted Yoshiro Mori in his cabinet, although he accepted Abe's request to offer Recruit-tainted Mutsuki Kato an LDP executive post.

Kaifu succeeded scandal-beset Sosuke Uno last August. Uno held the post for just over two months after assuming it. Uno resigned in disgrace, taking responsibility for the LDP's historic defeat in the House of Councillors election and for his extramarital affair with a geisha.

Uno replaced Noboru Takeshita, who stepped down as prime minister last June over the Recruit influence-buying scandal. The 59-year-old prime minister was chosen primarily because of his youth and eloquence in order to establish a clean image to the scandal-tainted party.

Kaifu has been regarded widely as a stopgap for the transfer of power from Takeshita to Abe. His fate is reminiscent of his mentor Takeo Miki, who was picked up as prime minister in 1974 after Kakuei Tanaka resigned over questionable financial dealings. The reform-minded Miki, who headed a minor LDP faction, was forced to resign from power after factional struggles over the Lockheed bribery scandal.

Kaifu, the son of the owner of a photographic studio, was born in Nagoya, central Japan, in 1931. He volunteered for the wartime Youth Air Corps when he was a high school student but World War II ended before he entered the corps. Kaifu has participated in speech contests since he was a high school student and cultivated oratory skills upon entering Tokyo's Chuo University and transfering to Waseda University.

Interested in politics, Kaifu became a secretary of a Diet member when he was a university student.

Kaifu regards 29 as his lucky number. He pledged in 1960 to become prime minister 29 years later when he became Japan's youngest lawmaker after being elected to the lower house. His pledge became true when he was chosen as prime minister last August.

Kaifu favors the number 29 because he graduated from Waseda University in the 29th year of the Showa Era in the Japanese calendar, 1954 and was elected to the Diet for the first time at the age of 29 in the 29th general election. His room number in the office building for Diet members was 29.

Kaifu served as deputy chief cabinet secretary under the government of Miki, who held power from 1974-76. The

11-term member of the lower house belongs to the smallest LDP faction, led by former State Minister Toshio Komoto.

Kaifu's political posture is "dialogue and coordination." His trademark is a polka dot necktie and he has a closet filled with 600 of them. Kaifu said: "The collection of polka dot neckties is my only hobby. It is the most pleasant when I think in the morning which necktie should I put on."

Kaifu met his wife, Sachiyo, when she was working at the office of a Diet member. The couple has one son and one daughter.

LDP 'Sources' Speculate on New Kaifu Cabinet

OW2402113590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—Former Labor Minister Misoji Sakamoto has emerged as the likeliest choice for the post of chief cabinet secretary in a new cabinet to be formed by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu next week. Sources in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said Kaifu is inclined to select Sakamoto for that post.

Sakamoto's selection depends on support from the largest intraparty faction headed by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, they said. Both Kaifu and Sakamoto belong to the Komoto faction led by former State Minister Toshio Komoto.

Kaifu plans to complete formation of his new cabinet within Tuesday. He is certain to be reelected prime minister in a Diet session Tuesday. The prime minister is likely to retain Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama if his choice is accepted by the Abe faction led by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, the sources said.

The Abe faction is pushing for selection of its member and former Education Minister Yoshiro Mori to a key post in the cabinet, they said. Kaifu originally opposed Mori's choice for his links to the Recruit shares-for-favors affair but changed his mind as he felt that cooperation of the Abe faction is vital to political steering in the future, the sources said.

The prime minister also plans to name present chief cabinet Secretary Mayumi Moriyama to a cabinet post.

Sumiko Takahara, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, has only a 50-50 chance of being retained as cabinet minister because of her controversial statement that scandal-linked politicians should be excluded from key party and cabinet posts.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is likely to be retained, the sources said.

Other likely choices for the new cabinet include Keiwa Okuda, chairman of the LDP's Diet Policy Committee, Tamisuke Watanuki, former director general of the National Land Agency, Tsutomu Hata, former minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, former Labor Minister Akira Ono, Jun Shiozaki, former director general of the Economic Planning Agency, and Kabun Muto, former minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Cabinet Resigns To Pave Way for Diet Nomination

OW2702010990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0048 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—The cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu resigned en masse Tuesday morning to pave the way for the nomination of a new prime minister by the Diet later in the day, officials said.

Kaifu is all but certain to be reelected to the prime ministership as his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has a solid majority in the newly-elected House of Representatives. He is also likely to win election in the opposition-dominated House of Councilors because the opposition is not backing a unified candidate. The LDP is the largest single party in the upper chamber.

Kaifu, in consultation with top LDP executives, will name his new cabinet later in the day.

Cabinet Naming Delayed Due to Factional 'Snag'

OW2702120290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1149 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Tuesday won reelection as head of the government but hit a snag during the evening in naming a new cabinet because of factional pressures within his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The LDP's key officers conferred on how to deal with a request from the party's fourth largest faction to include in the new cabinet one of its members who was convicted of a criminal offense in the Lockheed payoff scandal, party sources said.

The 67-member group, once led by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and currently by former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, strongly urged Kaifu to pick Takayuki Sato, 62, who was found guilty of taking bribes in the 1976 Lockheed case. Kaifu, 59, who wishes to maintain a "clean" image, resisted the demand, hoping to exclude scandal-tainted politicians from what will be his second cabinet since he took office last August, the sources said.

On Monday, the LDP's second largest faction, led by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, asked Kaifu to choose Yoshiro Mori, 52, who was involved in the Recruit stocks-for-favor scandal. Mori, aware of Kaifu's resistance, later declined to be considered for a cabinet post.

In the lineup of senior party officials, Kaifu has appointed Mutsuki Kato, another Recruit-tainted politician, head of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council.

Lower House Speaker Sakurauchi Profiled

OW2702074190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—New lower house speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi had led the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) faction formed by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone since Nakasone left the party last May after being implicated in the Recruit influence-peddling scandal. Sakurauchi handed over the leadership of the fourth-ranked intraparty faction to Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the party's Policy Research Council, after the February 18 general election.

After graduating from Keio University, Sakurauchi has been elected 16 times to the House of Representatives since 1947. The 77-year-old veteran conservative held such key posts as minister of international trade and industry, agriculture, construction and foreign affairs.

Sakurauchi had also served as chairman of the LDP's Policy Research Council and secretary general. His father Yukio was also an influential politician and retained cabinet portfolio in prewar Japan.

Opposition Coalition Plans Reportedly Collapse

OW2402015190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1354 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—Talks among four noncommunist opposition parties to forge a coalition government appeared to have collapsed as Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida declared Friday that his centrist party would distance itself from the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), opposition sources said.

The JSP, Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), and the small United Social Democratic Party (USDP) have been talking on and off since April last year on how to join forces to topple the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The talks, however, have been stalled with the two centrist parties, the Komeito and the DSP, urging the JSP to adopt "realistic" stances on national security, Japan-U.S. security arrangements, policies toward the Korean peninsula and nuclear power.

The opposition broke ranks after the socialists scored major gains in Sunday's lower house election, mostly at the expense of Komeito and the DSP.

The JSP now holds 141 seats in the House of Representatives, up from 83 before the election, while Komeito has 46, down from 54, and the DSP 14, down from 25.

Ishida indicated at the party's central executive meeting Friday that Komeito will put an end to the coalition talks, saying the party's "originality" was swamped in the election campaign because of its involvement with the JSP. Ishida called for establishment of a "tripolar" system, in which the LDP, the JSP and the centrist parties would play major, but different roles.

DSP Chairman Eiichi Nagasue said Thursday that his party will not pursue an alliance with the JSP and Komeito unless the No. 1 opposition party changes its policies.

Minor Opposition Parties To Form Diet Group

OW2502122890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Two minor opposition parties decided Sunday to form a five-member parliamentary group in the House of Representatives. Four Diet members of the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) will form the group with Progressive Party leader Seiichi Tagawa. The five retained their seats in the February 18 lower house election. The name and leader of the group have yet to be decided.

The USDP said it will call on independent Diet members to join the group in a bid to have the minimum six members needed to nominate a member to the lower house's powerful Budget Committee.

Before the lower house was dissolved last month for the election, the USDP members joined two parliamentary groups, one siding with the Japan Socialist Party and the other with the Democratic Socialist Party.

U.S. Defense Secretary Leaves for Home

OW2402084590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney left Japan Saturday afternoon to return home from a five-day visit to Japan. Cheney left from the U.S. air base in Misawa, Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, after spending the morning visiting the base.

It was the final day of a three-nation Asian tour which has took in South Korea and the Philippines. [sentence as received]

While in Japan, Cheney met Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, and Defense Agency chief Juro Matsumoto. In his talks, Cheney proposed withdrawing 5,000 to 6,000 of the 50,000 American troops in Japan over the next three years as part of planned cuts in U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cheney also said the U.S. plans to replace the retiring aircraft carrier Midway based in Yokosuka with the newer and larger conventional flattop Independence in summer 1991.

Meanwhile, Japan has pledged to increase its share in the cost of keeping the U.S. troops in Japan.

Ministry Denies Ties With U.S. in 'Crisis'

OW2702114890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday denied Japan's ties with the United States have entered a state of "crisis," but acknowledged that bilateral relations are now going through a "crucial" period in their history. Spokesman Taizo Watanabe also denied any "urgency" in U.S. President George Bush's surprise call late Friday for a summit meeting on March 2-3 with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, just hours after U.S. trade negotiators in Tokyo pronounced the most recent round of bilateral talks a failure.

Asked by a foreign correspondent if there is a "crisis" in the Japan-U.S. relationship due to the two countries' falling out over trade, Watanabe responded after a pause: "The conclusion is no. At this moment, we don't feel there is a crisis, but there are many urgent issues which we should attend to," the spokesman said. "I think it is a crucial time," he said, adding that such a sentiment is shared by the Japanese participants in the recent bilateral trade talks.

The spokesman's remarks come amid growing U.S. frustration over the chronic trade deficit with Japan and opinion polls showing a dramatic increase in resentment toward this country among the American public.

Watanabe appeared hard put to delink Bush's late night telephone call to Kaifu, in which he invited the premier to talks in Palm Springs, California, from the events which preceded it by only hours. The hastily proferred proposal for a summit meeting, coming a week earlier than it was to occur, followed U.S. trade negotiators' expressions of "frustration" earlier Friday at Japan's alleged insistence on "defending the status quo."

It also followed a vague but ominous warning by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in Tokyo earlier in the day that bilateral trade friction, if left unchecked, could "spill over into other areas of mutual interest and concern."

Watanabe acknowledged that it is "rather unusual" for the Japanese premier to be telephoned by the U.S. President after midnight on a weekend, but suggested that what transpired be viewed as a sign of "closeness" between the two. He said Bush was anxious to personally congratulate Kaifu on the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's recent victory at the polls and to respond to Kaifu's expressed wishes for a summit meeting as soon as possible after the election.

Watanabe stressed that the timing proposed by Bush for "a free and frank exchange of views" was not "imposed" on Kaifu, but rather was offered as an "option." "The manner in which this proposition was made was very friendly and did not indicate any sense of "urgency," the spokesman said.

Asked what Kaifu's trip to Palm Springs is expected to accomplish, he said it would "clear any speck of doubt about the sincerity and degree of determination to do whatever is expected of either side."

On Monday, a top Foreign Ministry official apparently ruled out any new Japanese trade concessions or initiatives in Palm Springs, saying Kaifu would not be taking with him any "omiyage" (presents) owing to the lack of time for adequate preparation.

Watanabe downplayed the likelihood of bilateral economic issues dominating the agenda of the summit, saying the two leaders will also discuss the changing international environment and their cooperation as "global partners." But Bush, reportedly frustrated over Japanese attitudes, is widely expected to call on Kaifu to implement more market-opening measures before the bilateral relations deteriorate to an irrecoverable level.

Compromise Proposal on Satellite Issue Planned

OW2602163890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1506 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan will make a compromise proposal Tuesday to the United States for a substantial solution to the communications satellite issue, government sources said Monday. The sources made the remark after the end of the first-day session of the two-day Japanese-U.S. experts' meeting on man-made satellites at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo.

The proposal would call for the procurement of a transponder operating on the ku band, one of the frequencies designed to transmit images, to be made by means of open bidding instead of through a private contract as so far planned, the sources said. This proposal will open the way for U.S. interests to participate in the CS4 research and development project, they said.

At Monday's meeting, the U.S. experts reiterated their contention that the two CS4 communications satellites which Japan plans to develop and launch in fiscal 1994 and 1995 are of a largely practical type, and that it is unfair that the government intends to bear part of the development cost. Further, it is unfair for Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) not to be allowed to procure them from overseas, the American experts claimed. But the Japanese experts said the CS4's are largely much of a research and development type, designed to carry five transponders of different frequencies, including one of the ku band.

Satellite, supercomputer and lumber products are mentioned by the United States as "unfair trade practice or barrier items" which fall under the so-called "Super 301" clause of the U.S. Trade Act of 1988.

Talks End Without Accord

OW2702091190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0713 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japan and the United States concluded two days of expert-level talks on satellite trade without agreement in Tokyo on Tuesday. The two sides agreed to meet again in the U.S. in mid-March, Japanese officials said.

During the Tokyo session, Japan offered to give foreign firms chances to supply part of a new communications satellite, code-named CS4, conference sources said. But the U.S. made no immediate response to the offer, the sources said.

Previously, Japan had insisted that it be allowed to develop the whole of the CS4 on its own, terming it a project for technological development and not a commercial satellite.

The U.S. claimed that the CS4 would be a commercial satellite since it is expected to be put to practical use after its first launch slated for 1994. It thus called for access to the project, calling Japan's self-development policy an unfair trade barrier.

Together with supercomputers and forest products, satellites have been cited by the U.S. as unfair trade areas, a designation that may lead to retaliation under the so-called "Super 301" provision of the 1988 trade act.

Soviet Official Discusses Varied Ownership Plan

OW2402014890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1457 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—A. Troshin, the visiting vice chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee (Gosplan), said Friday that 30 to 40 percent of the Soviet Union's entire means of production—machinery, equipment and structures—could be owned by joint - stock companies by 1995 if a bill on ownership, now before the Supreme Soviet, is approved. This marked the first time that a leader of Gosplan had made a specific prediction on the prospect of ownership by joint-stock firms.

The Soviet official also told a lecture meeting here that an antimonopoly bill is being prepared to prevent economic domination by "big business," along with plans for land reform, bank restructuring and creation of a stock market, which constitute main pillars of economic perestroyka.

The Soviet Union legalized possession through leasing contracts last year. Possession of means of production through this formula is also expected to reach 30 percent, observers well versed in Soviet affairs said. Along with this, the planned permission of ownership by joint-stock companies will spell a sharp setback for state-controlled production during the next five-year plan period (1991-1995), they said.

The Soviet Union has already decided to abolish the system under which Gosplan sets mandatory production goals and to provide only loose economic targets similar to Western nations' economic projections.

The Soviet Communist Party recently adopted a new concept of "planned market economy" for turning the present mainly state-controlled production activities into various corporate operations under diverse forms of ownership. The idea was put forward in a new political platform submitted by Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Supreme Soviet.

The exact content of the concept is not fully clear. But the Soviet official said the economic restructuring has five principal aims—introduction of diverse forms of ownership, healthy national finances, a new employment system, reasonable pricing and reorganization of the economic management mechanism.

Ownership by joint-stock firms is likely to increase sharply. In this context, the Soviet Union is contemplating the creation of a stock market and a clear-cut division of roles between state-run and commercial banks.

The Soviet Government plans to reduce the ratio of the budget deficit to gross national product (GNP) from the present 8 percent or so to 3-4 percent by 1995. To this end, efforts will be made to place deficit-ridden state enterprises under private management, cease the subsidization of state-run cooperatives in deficit, and reform the tax system, Troshin said.

Soviet Envoy Visits Farm for Restructuring Tips

OW2402054190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0523 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Oita, Feb. 24 KYODO—The Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Soloviev visited Oita Prefecture, southern Japan, on Saturday, seeking tips on agricultural restructuring.

The ambassador will meet local officials during his four-day stay, to learn more about the "one village-one product" movement that made the prefecture famous. The movement succeeded in harnessing local industry in a combined effort to make it the main mushroom producing prefecture in Japan. The ambassador was tempted to make the visit following an article last July in a Soviet industrial newspaper describing the movement as "Oita's miracle."

Oita Governor Morihiko Hiramatsu said Soloviev's visit is an indication of the level of interest in Japan by the Soviet Union where agricultural productivity levels are still depressed despite perestroyka. Soloviev will discuss with the governor on how to stimulate local industries before returning to Tokyo on Tuesday.

Minister Denies Plan To Tax Stock Holdings

OW2602064690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0616 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto denied Monday that the ministry is considering a tax on stock holdings. "We haven't discussed it at all," Hashimoto told reporters, adding that "it is difficult to introduce it from a technical viewpoint."

Speculation about such a tax has been cited as one of the factors causing the stock market plunge in recent sessions.

Reportage on Yen-Dollar Situation Continues

Money Policy 'Will Not Change'

OW2402014990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—A Bank of Japan source said Friday night the central bank will not change its monetary policy at the moment despite the dollar's rise above 147 yen in overseas trading.

The source shrugged off the possibility of a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations being called urgently because of currency market developments. "Policy coordination remains intact. There is no need to call a G-7 meeting urgently," the source said. The source said the present upswing of the dollar against the yen is not cause for serious concern, saying its swings have been within the range of 3 to 4 yen since the beginning of this year.

The source made the remarks after the dollar surged above 147 yen in Europe, rising above 146.47 yen at Friday's close in Tokyo.

Bank Said Ready To Intervene

OW2602133390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) is ready to intervene on overseas markets to assist the flagging yen, a central bank source said Monday. Speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, the source said, "the central bank will enter the European and U.S. foreign-exchange markets later Monday to stop a one-way slide in the yen's value against the U.S. dollar."

The BOJ stepped into the Tokyo market Monday to dump 3 billion dollars in a bid to defend the yen. Despite the dollar-bashing effort, however, the dollar skyrocketed to an eight-and-a-half month closing high of 148.65 yen.

Another BOJ source said other major nations will cooperate with Japan through concerted market intervention.

Bank To Intervene Further

OW2702051990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—The Bank of Japan will intensify dollar sales in currency markets to halt the yen's fall against the U.S. dollar, a reliable source at the central bank said Tuesday.

The source said the bank will scale up dollar sales amount in currency markets to reverse the market's dollar bullishness, which has caused the U.S. currency to break through several technical barriers during its rise in recent sessions.

The source also said the dollar's further upswing above the 149 yen level during morning dealings in Tokyo, to an eight-month high against the yen, stemmed from a continued sharp downslide in stock prices in Tokyo.

Bank 'Determined To Fight'

OW2702104790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0949 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—The Bank of Japan is determined to fight a "drawn-out struggle" to salvage the yen from further decline, a central bank source said Tuesday. The Japanese central bank is ready to step into New York and other overseas currency markets, selling dollars and buying yen, the source said.

The U.S. unit held firm in Tokyo Tuesday, closing at 149.03 yen, up 0.38 yen from Monday's finish despite massive intervention by the central bank.

"We know foreign market players are buying the U.S. currency in Tokyo," he added.

UN Envoy on Need for More Active Japanese Role

OW2402093990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—The new Japanese ambassador to the United Nations, Yoshio Hatano, on Saturday stressed the need for Japan to make further contributions to the world body's peace-keeping activities.

In an interview with the KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Hatano said that the easing of tensions in East-West relations has not yet helped settle regional conflicts in the world. Hatano, who was appointed to his new job on February 9 to replace Hideo Kagami, added that U.N. peace-keeping activites are expected to increase in various fields.

Hatano said that Japan should play a more active role in the U.N. in such fields as environmental protection, human rights, refugee, and drug problems. However, Hatano adopted a cautious stance over suggestions Japan could dispatch its Self-Defence Forces overseas

for peace-keeping activities, saying a national consensus would be needed before any such moves were made.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the Diet last October that the government will study the possibility of sending Self-Defense Forces personnel overseas to cooperate in U.N. peace-keeping activities.

Agency To Improve Quality of Foreign Aid

OW2402093790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) plans to construct an international information-exchange network connecting Japan and developing countries to help tailor Japan's economic assistance to economic realities in recipient countries, EPA officials said Saturday. The Japanese Government hopes to acquire through the network more detailed information about what the recipients of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) need most for their development, the officials said.

The network is expected to serve as a medium for exchange of economic information, overseas surveys, exchanges of experts close to policy-making institutions, and joint research projects, according to the officials. In its first stage, it will cover governments, research institutes, and private organizations in Asian countries, but the scope of the project will be expanded later to include up to 100 countries by the year 2000, they said.

East European countries may also be covered by the scheme, in keeping with the progress in their economic reform programs, they said. But the EPA is also considering a separate plan to establish a special information-exchange system for improving the quality of Japan's economic aid to Eastern Europe, they said.

The EPA's move has been prompted by growing criticism that Japan's ODA is often quite inefficient and even wasted because it is not backed by well-founded assessments of the recipients' economic and social conditions. The lack of such assessments further hampered the effectiveness of Japan's economic assistance in the 1980's due to the growing disparity in economic development among the recipients.

Also behind the EPA project is the added criticism that Japan's assistance is all cash with no follow-up. A number of cases have been reported recently in which Japan's aid has merely been wasted owing to a lack of management support from Japan. The government hopes to ensure its money will be spent more effectively through the EPA project, the officials said.

LDP Official Rejects Rice Import Negotiations

OW2302130390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—A senior executive of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] on Friday rejected the idea of holding bilateral negotiations on Japan's rice imports as urged by the United States. "We won't conduct bilateral talks on rice," Mutsuki Kato, who was on Thursday appointed as chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, told a live television program early Friday morning.

Kato was reiterating the government position that the rice issue should be addressed as part of farm trade in the current Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Asked for comment on a possible breakdown in rice talks at the Uruguay Round, Kato said "I don't think things will get that bad." He said, "I don't expect Japan would face such big problems, considering the fact that Japan is the biggest farm products importer in the world." The Uruguay Round is due to end in December this year.

Kato said the idea of "food security," Japan's argument for keeping out rice imports, emanated from members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The U.S., which wants to sell its rice to Japan in part to compensate for its trade deficits with Japan, favors bilateral talks on the issue, while Japan prefers to address it at the Uruguay Round.

Later Friday, another LDP lawmaker, Takashi Sato, the party's farm policy executive, proposed in Niigata, the purchase of rice from the U.S., Thailand, or elsewhere for redirection to food-scarce Third World nations.

Ruling out domestic distribution, he said Japan could buy rice for use in its foreign aid program via the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Under such a proposal, the foreign rice would not be registered as an "import" as the rice would not go through Japan's Customs Office.

Both the LDP and the opposition camp are unanimous in insisting on a total ban on rice imports. Kato, however, noted that Japan already imports rice in the form of ingredients in rice-associated products such as alcholic beverage and noodles.

Banks To Be Allowed To Open London Branches

OW1502232390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1404 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 15 KYODO—Some Japanese regional banks are expected to be allowed to open branches in London, financial sources said Thursday. The Bank of England, Britain's central bank, responding to repeated requests from Japanese banks, is ready to allow them to upgrade their representative offices to branches, the sources said.

The British Government has so far frozen such moves in retaliation for Japan's reluctance to grant membership on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) to two British

securities houses. But it has decided to lift the restriction, as the TSE plans to give seats to the two brokerages, James Capel and Barclays de Zoete Wedd [as received], they sources said.

Hokuriku Bank is expected to be the second Japanese regional bank after the Bank of Yokohama to open a London branch, they said. The bank is likely to be followed by Chiba Bank and Norinchukin Bank.

Budget Advisers Propose Outstanding Debts Cut

OW2402015090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—Government budget advisers plan to propose that the portion of government bonds in overall revenue be cut drastically within five years to make fiscal spending more flexible, officials said Friday. The proposal calls for reducing the proportion of such debts in fiscal revenues to less than 5 percent by fiscal 1995 from the 8.4 percent in the fiscal 1990 budget now pending Diet approval.

The measure, mapped out by a subcommittee attached to the Fiscal System Council, an advisory body to the finance minister, will be presented to a general meeting of the council next week, officials close to the council said. The officials said the proposal will serve as a new government target on the fiscal front, replacing the present one which calls for completely eliminating the issue of debt-financing bonds by fiscal 1990.

Under the government-proposed fiscal 1990 budget, the issue of such bonds will in fact be eliminated.

The subcommittee will also recommend that the government redeem outstanding government bonds issued to cover revenue shortfalls as early as possible, the officials said.

The outstanding balance of government debt is expected to reach some 164 trillion yen at the end of fiscal 1990, with such bonds accounting for some 66 trillion yen of the total amount, according to Finance Ministry estimates.

Subcommitee members have reached a consensus that the government should put priority on slashing such outstanding debts, under the weight of which state finances have been tottering for some time, the officials said. To that end, the subcommittee will suggest that the government hold down the issue of public works-financing bonds, they said.

Under the fiscal 1990 budget, the ratio of government bonds to Japan's gross national product (GNP) would be higher than for any other advanced country, with debt-servicing costs representing more than 20 percent of total spending.

Business Leader Urges Auto-Related Deregulation

OW1602154590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO—Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), called Friday for a drastic deregulation in the area of automobiles and for the privatization of the Japan Highway Public Corp. He told a press conference that regulations on cars, such as those on driver's licenses and periodic car inspection, and expressway tolls are open to question in many respects.

In particular, he said, it is odd that expressway tolls remain unchanged despite the lapse of so many years after the completion of expressways. He would like to see the highway corporation privatized so as to bring lower tolls through a streamlining of its business, Ishihara said. He referred to deregulation when saying of objectives for this year's "spring labor offensive" that the cost of living should be reduced through deregulation and a closing of gaps between domestic and foreign prices rather than through sharply raising nominal wages.

Ishihara said that he wants the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association to take the lead in seeking deregulation and lower expressway tolls. At the start of this year, Keizai Doyukai proposed that the approximately 10,000 existing public regulations be halved in number in five years.

Citizens Participate in Antiterrorism Rallies

OW2502083390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Nagasaki, Feb. 25 KYODO—Citizens joined antiterrorism rallies over the weekend demanding freedom of speech in the wake of an attempted assassination of Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima. In Nagasaki Sunday, some 1,000 people from the city and elsewhere across Japan gathered and rallied in main streets to protest terrorist attempts to contain free speech.

The participants were especially angry about the January 18 shooting of Motoshima by a right-wing activist who protested the mayor's remarks that the late Emperor Showa was partly to blame for Japan's involvement in World War II. The mayor barely survived the assassination attempt. Police said Motoshima's attacker was the first postwar right-wing terrorist to assault a major political figure with a pistol. The terrorist was arrested by police. Previous rightists attacks against main public figures were conducted by knives or swords.

At the front gate of Nagasaki City Office, where the shooting occurred, rally participants repeated shouts denouncing the incident and demanding the assurance of freedom of speech especially about the imperial system.

Some 200 policemen were moving in to prepare for possible harassments by rightist groups, but no such incidents were reported.

A rally participant used a card made of bulletproof plastic board for protection. Another elderly participant from Nagasaki, an 82-year-old woman, said she is afraid of rightist violence but felt secure being among those who sought a right to free speech.

Sunday's rally was the extension of a convention attended by some 1,000 people that was held in the city Saturday that called for historic examination by citizens of Japan's position as aggressor in the war under the imperial system. They said such examination tests the maturity of Japan's free speech philosophy.

In a related development, four citizens visited the local headquarters of a rightist group, whose member was arrested for the Motoshima attack, and protested the attack. One of the protesters, Shinichiro Nakajima of Kumamoto Prefecture, denounced the terrorism and instead urged discussions, even with those who shared different opinions.

In Tokyo Saturday, some 100 people held a gathering in Shibuya Ward and called for the establishment of "real" free speech in Japan.

North Korea

KPA Assumes Combat Mobilization Posture

SK2602223390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 26 Feb 90

["Information" of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army]

[Text] The supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] handed over the order to all units of the KPA and the Korean People's Constabulary and to all members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Honor Guard to assume a combat mobilization posture.

In defiance of unanimous protests and the denunciation of all the Korean people and peace-loving people of the world, the bellicose elements of the United States and South Korea have entered an adventurous path by finally staging the Team Spirit-90 joint military exercise.

Mobilized in this war exercise are enormous U.S. imperialist aggressor forces, units of the South Korean puppet army, a large quantity of mass lethal weapons including nuclear weapons and new-generation operational equipment, more than what is needed to wage war. They will stage various offensive operations aimed at our Republic.

A large number of troops, nuclear-powered carriers, destroyers, strategic bombers and various types of missiles swarmed into South Korea from the U.S. military bases on the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines and Japan. The U.S. forces in South Korea and the South Korean puppet army are also being deployed in the operational zone. The Team Spirit-90 joint military exercise is a preliminary war and nuclear war test designed to launch a preemptive attack on our Republic in accordance with U.S. strategy in Asia and the Pacific. Because of this adventurous war exercise, our new epochal national reunification proposal for removing the barrier of division between the North and the South and for realizing free travel and full-scale openness is facing a grave challenge and the North-South dialogue in many channels has suddenly broken off.

A tense situation in which war may break out at any moment is being created in our country. No one can be sure that the United States, which declared the end of the cold war and the arrival of the era of peace in the face of the world and which, as soon as it turned around, perpetrated an armed invasion against a sovereign state in Latin America, will not hesitate to commit any military adventure by taking the Team Spirit-90 joint military exercise as an opportunity.

In order to cope with the grave situation in which the danger of a new nuclear war is created in our country by the reckless military provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the Supreme Commander of the KPA has issued an order to all units of the army, navy and air force of the KPA and the Korean People's Constabulary, as well as to all members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Honor Guard, to assume a complete combat mobilization posture with heightened vigilance.

Officers and men of the KPA and the Korean People's Constabulary who have been mobilized in peaceful economic construction are posted to assume a full-scale posture so that they can be mobilized in case of emergency at any time.

This is a self-defense step designed to cope with the new war provocation maneuvers of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

Our people love peace and do not want confrontation and war. Corresponding to the aspirations of all the Korean people and peace-loving people of the world who want disarmament and detente, our party and the government of the Republic put forward a new reunification proposal for removing the barrier between the North and the South and for realizing free travel and full-scale openness so that a basic turning point can be effected in easing tension on the Korean peninsula and in achieving the peaceful reunification of the nation. We repeatedly demanded suspension of the Team Spirit-90 joint military exercise which serves as an obstacle to North-South dialogue.

However, the United States and the South Korean authorities strained the situation to an extreme point by wielding nuclear weapons in order to realize their aggressive ambition. They continue to stage the provocative Team Spirit joint military exercise, which they began in the mid-seventies, even today as we enter the nineties.

This is a grave challenge to our peace-loving Republic and all of the Korean people and is a criminal act threatening peace in Asia and the world.

Because of the premeditated military confrontation policy of the United States and the South Korean authorities, the situation on the Korean peninsula failed to enter into a phase of detente and remains unstable.

The United States and the South Korean authorities should discard the anachronistic outdated outlook of the cold war era and should immediately suspend the Team Spirit-90 joint military exercise which is designed to realize their foolish aim of aggression.

Our party and the government of the Republic will make every effort in the future, too, to ease tension created on the Korean peninsula and to eliminate the state of military confrontation.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets finally advance along the road of aggressive war by trampling the unanimous aspirations and desire of our people to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country in the nineties, our revolutionary armed forces and all the Korean people will rise as one and fight to defend the sacred land of the fatherland and the precious revolutionary gains.

Assuming a full-scale combat readiness to timely and thoroughly crush any war provocation maneuver of the enemy, all units of the KPA and the Korean People's Constabulary, all members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Honor Guard, and all the people will firmly defend the land, the sea and air of the fatherland.

KPA Statement Published

SK2702050490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 27 Feb 90

["KPA Supreme Commander Issues Order to Entire Units and Members of Armed Forces To Get Fully Prepared for Combat Mobilisation"—KCNA headline]

[Excerpt] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—In face of the grave situation under which the danger of a new war, a nuclear war, has been created in our country owing to the reckless military provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] issued an order to the entire units of the three services of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces and to the entire members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard and the Young Red Guard to get fully prepared for combat mobilization with a heightened revolutionary vigilance.

The officers and men of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces mobilized in peaceful economic construction, too, were ordered to be in full readiness for emergency mobilization any moment.

This is a self-defensive measure to cope with the new war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

This is stated in the communique of the KPA Supreme Command published today. [passage omitted]

MAC Protests Deployment of Weapons in DMZ

SK2702104290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Kaesong February 27 (KCNA)—Maj. Gen. Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC], on Feb. 27 sent a telephone message to the senior member of the U.S. side in protest against the introduction of heavy weapons into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) by it.

The message noted that the U.S. side shipped two 90 mm recoilless guns and two 105 mm howitzers into the DMZ in the eastern sector of the front at around 13:07 and 13:30 today and deployed dozens of combat personnel carrying two machine guns in the DMZ in the western sector of the front at around 15:29.

Stating that such military provocations of the U.S. side, synchronizing with the aggressive "Team Spirit-90" war exercises, are very grave criminal acts which may render the situation extremely strained and lead it to a dangerous phase, the message said:

Our side strongly protests the deployment of heavy weapons and combat personnel in the DMZ in crude violation of Paragraphs 6 and 10 of the Armistice Agreement by your side and strongly demands that your side take the illegally introduced heavy weapons and combat personnel out of the DMZ at once.

Radio Carries Protest Message

SK2702105890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1010 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Telephone message to the senior member of the U.S. side to the Military Armistice Commission from Choe Ui-ung, senior member of the North Korean side, sent on 27 February]

[Text] At around 1330 [0430 GMT] today, the U.S. side introduced two 105-mm Howitzers into a post near the area 1,700 meters south of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] marker No. 1048 in the eastern part of the frontline.

At around 1529 [0629 GMT], it deployed tens of combatant personnel carrying two machine guns near the area 1,200 meters east of MDL marker No. 0256 in the western part of the frontline.

At around 1307 [0407 GMT] prior to this, it set up two 90-mm recoilless guns at a post near the area 1,100 meters south of MDL marker No. 1123 in the eastern part of the frontline and assumed a shooting posture.

Timed to coincide with the staging of the aggressive Team Spirit-90 war exercise, the U.S. side perpetrated these military provocations in the DMZ, where the soldiers of the two sides stand directly confronted with each other. This is a very grave criminal act, which can extremely strain the situation and lead the situation to a dangerous stage.

Our side is adamantly filing a strong protest with the U.S. side against its wanton violation of Paragraphs 6 and 10 of the Armistice Agreement and its deployment of heavy weapons and combatant personnel into the DMZ, and strongly demands that it immediately withdraw the illegally introduced heavy weapons and combatant personnel out of the DMZ.

NODONG SINMUN Attacks on U.S. Policy Cited

Cheney, Team Spirit Assailed

SK2702053490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 27 Feb 90

["Hazardous War Design Against The North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—It was something uncommon that the U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney, synchronizing with the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises, flew to South Korea, held closed-door confab with the traitor No Tae-u and went to the frontline posts in the western sector of the front, inciting war fever against the North, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

It is well-known a fact that on the eve of their provocation of a war of aggression in Korea in the past, the U.S. imperialists dispatched notorious Dulles to South Korea for the on-spot examination of the preparations for the war, the news analyst notes, and continues:

U.S. Government authorities and military brass hats quite often hurl groundless abuses at the DPRK, alleging that it "has terrible military potentials," "a conflict may occur in a twinkling" on the Korean peninsula and that they have the capacity to hold back a so-called "provocation".

All the omens indicate that the U.S. imperialists may ignite a war against the North by converting the provocative "Team Spirit-90" manoeuvres into a real war any moment.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are trying to justify the "Team Spirit-90" by describing it as "defensive exercises." But this is no more than a poor excuse of criminals who feel a guilty conscience.

If a war broke out in Korea, it might develop into a worldwide thermonuclear war.

The U.S. imperialists must throw away the adventurous design to provoke another war and stop the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres involving an explosive nuclear war exercise.

American 'Terrorism' Denounced

SK2702103590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 27 Feb 90

["The United States is Terrorist State"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are now waxing eloquent about "peace," "detente" and "defense of human rights," but the United States is, by origin, a country which was born of terrorism and which adopted terrorism as its state policy, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Noting that the United States quite often brands other countries as "terrorist states," the article says, this reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief!"

Stripping bare U.S. imperialism as the chieftain of international terrorism, the article says:

Terrorism of the United States is not confined to a certain region or to some countries, but is committed against all regions, all countries and all the progressive people in the world, and it is most malicious, ferocious and base in its methods.

The malicious nature of the U.S. imperialists' terrorism finds manifestation, above all, in the military terrorism by regular armed forces.

Typical of it is their armed invasion of Panama.

Their true color as the chieftain of terrorism was brought to sharp focus by their invasion of Grenada in 1983, promiscuous gunfiring and bombardment on Lebanon and Libya.

Today they are brandishing nuclear and other mass destruction weapons.

A typical example of it is the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises being staged by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea, which well shows to what extent their state terrorism has gone.

Subversive acts, sabotage and assassination are important methods of their terrorism.

They engineered military coups on more than 100 occasions and committed a long string of subversive acts and sabotages over the past four decades since World War II, including the military coups they manipulated in Guatemala, Chile and Ghana.

The assassination of state leaders is the culmination of their terrorism.

The large-scale air raid on Libya in 1986 was intended to murder Libyan leader Qadhdhafi.

In gratifying their aggressive designs on major strategic strongholds they use their stooges as the tools and drive them out into terrorist operations. It is the very United States which grants military, political and financial aid to the Israeli Zionists and the contras in their terrorist actions.

Terrorism of the U.S. imperialists is organized and carried out directly by the high-ranking policy-makers including the U.S. President. They choose targets of terrorism and commit direct or indirect terrorism under a scrupulous plan. They have built up many secret special terrorist organizations including the CIA for the purpose of terrorism and send their field agents to all parts of the world to commit such heinous terrorist acts as sabotage, assaults, assassinations and overthrow of governments. In the developing countries alone more than 3 million people have fallen victims to the "secret war" by the CIA.

Facts tell that the U.S. imperialists' talk about "peace," "detente" and "defense of human rights" is an absolute baloney meant to justify their policy of state terrorism.

Son Song-pil Appointed Ambassador to USSR

SK2702101990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—Son Song-pil was appointed the DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR, according to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee.

CPRF Statement Urges Removal of Concrete Wall

SK2602153090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] released a statement on February 26.

In order to realise free travel and complete opening between the North and the South and accelerate the peaceful reunification of the country, the statement says, we will make persevering efforts and not stop our struggle until the South Korean authorities tear down the concrete wall.

Recalling that on February 19, the director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in a telephone message addressed to the "minister of Unification Board" of South Korea notified the latter that the North side would hand over cinematographic films, video tapes and pictures showing the concrete wall and proposed to form inspection groups consisting of people of all strata in the North and the South to confirm the existence of the wall and allow them to see it, the statement points out:

Far from replying to this, the South Korean authorities on February 21 let a spokesman of the "Unification Board" to make public a statement and turned down our proposal, alleging that we were using the matter of the concrete wall for "political propaganda." Worse still, they did such impudent act as taking issue even with the authority of our committee.

Their description of our important proposition as a "political propaganda" is a dastardly distortion of our peace efforts and cannot be construed otherwise than an effort of those who built the wall of division to evade their responsibility.

As for the slander thrown at our committee by the South Korean authorities, they must extricate themselves from the chauvinistic, self-opinionated and splittist way of thinking that their "Unification Board" alone can deal with the question of the country's reunification.

Our committee is a dignified political organ which consists of representatives of the Government of the DPRK, political parties and organisations to suit the nationwide character of the question of national reunification and a specialized organ for peaceful reunification which comprehensively represents the desire and will of the people of all strata for reunification.

But, the "Unification Board" of South Korea is no more than a bridesman of the authorities which can neither speak for the desire and will of the South Korean people for reunification nor conduct any independent function as regards the reunification question.

We hold that the South Korean authorities must discard their evil physical habit of reversing black and white and take a decisive step without hesitation to accept our just proposal for pulling down the concrete wall and realising the free travel and complete opening, though it is a bit late.

Meeting of Production Innovators Opens 26 Feb

'Speed' Campaign Discussed

SK2602221290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—A national meeting of production innovators opened today at the February 8 House of Culture.

The meeting will discuss tasks to create a new "speed of the 90s" by enhancing the vanguard role of the working class and bring about another great revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction.

Placed on the platform of the meeting hall were a portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song with the slogans "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Long live the glorious Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]" hanging on either side.

Hung on the background of the platform were the words "three revolutions," "speed of the 90s," "increased production and economy" and "self-reliance."

Also seen in the meeting hall were slogans "Let us effect a fresh upswing in socialist construction in the spirit of kangson and chollima!" And "Let us make the existing economic foundations pay off through increased production and economy!"

Production innovators, officials, People's Army soldiers, scientists, technicians and members of the three-revolution teams, more than 6,000 all told, are participating in the meeting.

The platform party included Yon Hyong-muk, Pak Song-chol, Chon Pyong-ho, and other senior officials of the party and the government, twice labour heroes, labour heroes, unassuming heroes and labour innovators.

Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, read a congratulatory message of the C.C., WPK to the national meeting of production innovators.

Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and premier of the Administration Council, delivered a report "on enhancing the vanguard role of the working class in the grand march in the 90s."

Then, labour hero Chin Ung-won, a workshop chief of the Chollima Steel Complex, and several others took the floor.

Speakers underscored the need to wage a dynamic movement to create the new "speed of the 90s" so as to fulfil the third seven-year plan ahead of schedule and intensify the drive to attain the high targets of the socialist construction in the 90s.

High-level Leaders Attend

SK2702024590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The national meeting of production innovators has opened. [passage omitted]

Comrades Yon Hyong-muk, Pak Song-chol, Chon Pyong-ho, Han Song-yong, Hong Song-nam, Kim Pok-sin, Chong Chun-ki, Kang Hui-won, Pak Nam-ki, Kim Chung-nin and Kim Yun-hyok; Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea; labor heroes; unheralded persons of merit and labor innovators in various industrial domains appeared at the rostrum. [passage omitted]

Second Session Held 27 Feb

SK2702105790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The second-day session of the national meeting of production innovators to create a new "speed of the 90s" was held here today.

The participants of the meting shouted the slogans "Let us bring about a new great revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction under the leadership of the party!" "Let us live and work in the spirit and stamina of the postwar days of great chollima upsurge!" and "Let us make the existing economic foundations pay off through increased production and economy!" and sang in chorus "We are lifeguards and a shock force" and "May of victory."

The floor was taken by Pak Man-kun, chief secretary of the party committee of the Sangwon cement complex; Chon Chang-son, a deep-boring machine operator of the Musan mining complex; Chong Hye-kuk, chief engineer of the Taean heavy machine complex; Pak Kyong-sok, a workshop leader of the Kaesong textile mill, and 14 others.

The speakers reviewed achievements made by our working class and other working people in the efforts for the prosperity of the socialist motherland and the happy life of the people under the banner of the chuche idea and the banner of the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions.

They stressed the need to dynamically wage the campaign to create the new "speed of the 90s" under the guidance of the party and the leader in order to fulfil the third seven-year plan ahead of schedule, attain the grand objectives of socialist construction in the 1990s, and thus consolidate the unique socialist system of our country where the chuche idea is embodied and continuously give full play to the might of the system.

They called on the working class and other working people in all domains of the national economy to vigorously wage a drive for increased production and economy and concentrate efforts on hitting the targets of major products including electricity, coal, rolled steel, cement, chemical fertilizers and textiles and the target of railway transport of freight.

A congratulatory group of the Korean Children's Union entered the hall and congratulated the participants in the national meeting of production innovators.

* More Stress on Revolutionary Studies Needed

902C0109A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 23 Dec 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Establish the Revolutionary Study Ethos in the Whole Society More Thoroughly"]

[Text] Today our party puts major emphasis on establishing the revolutionary study ethos more thoroughly in accordance with the realistic demands of our incessantly deepening and developing revolution. This reflects its lofty intent of firmly preparing our functionaries and working people as true chuche-type revolutionaries with the unswerving chuche view of the revolution and as able revolutionary personnel with high politico- administrative qualifications and abundant knowledge. Bearing this fact deeply in mind, all the functionaries and working people must thoroughly establish the revolutionary study ethos and bring the whole party and the entire society to seethe with the mood to study, study and study still more.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and secretary of the same committee, pointed out:

"We must establish the revolutionary study ethos among our functionaries and working people."

To establish the revolutionary study ethos thoroughly is an important demand that has to be met to enable the functionaries and working people to take a firm hold of the chuche view of the revolution for themselves.

To become chuche-type revolutionaries, people have to possess the chuche view of the revolution. It does not come by itself, however, but is formed and grows firm while learning fundamentals of the revolution through studies and practicing them. Only by understanding theoretically the truth about the revolution through studies, and experiencing it personally in real life can they possess the revolutionary view as a trait completely built into their constitution.

For those deeply involved in the revolution, study means an important guarantee for their ingesting ideological and spiritual food uninterruptedly and fighting on faithfully on the one road of the revolution pointed to by the party and the leader.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, while chartering the creative socialist, communist road under the banner of the chuche ideology, put forward many immortal ideological theories, while the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is ceaselessly deepening and developing the revolutionary theory of chuche in accordance with the demands of the developing realities. The ideological theories of our party are a powerful weapon of socialist, communist construction, and a guiding principle of struggle for our party members and working people to always adhere to steadfastly. Only through their ceaseless studies of the party's ideological theories will they become able to think and act as the party and the leader expect them to, using the party policy as the yardstick to measure everything, and to brilliantly accomplish whatever difficult and complex tasks they face.

The revolutionary has to carry on the revolution all his life, and to do so, must continue to study for life. Man needs food to maintain his physical life; likewise, only by arming themselves with the ideology of the party and the leader can revolutionaries unite with the party ideologically and voluntarily and glorify their political lives as revolutionaries. For revolutionaries, to study and study still more is an essential mode of activity. Without studying, without learning diligently, no one can be saved from ideological senility or live a worthy life within the revolutionary ranks. Study precisely is the powerful method that enables those making revolution to fight on faithfully to the end on the one road of revolution, never knowing senility nor stagnation.

To thoroughly establish the revolutionary study ethos in the entire party and the whole society is even more important today in view of the heavy revolutionary tasks facing us and of the realities of socialist construction that is deepening and developing onto a higher stage.

In order to push the three revolutions dynamically—ideological, technological and cultural—and generate new upsurges in the socialist economic construction, we must further improve the qualifications of functionaries and working people who are directly in charge of them.

Enormously powerful are the foundations of the self-supporting national economy we have built so far with our blood and sweat. To get those economic foundations to further prove their worth, functionaries and working people must improve their qualifications to better control and manage the economy in accordance with the Taean work system and to work more efficiently. The role of science and technology is growing extraordinarily important in socialist construction; without scientific and technological knowledge, it is impossible to handle the productive flying horse which our economy is. Today, major reserves for effectively utilizing the existing huge economic potential, and for producing and conserving more, also lie in the qualifications of functionaries and working people. In order to scale the peaks of science and technology and strengthen struggles for increased production and conservation, we must step up studies decisively and improve their qualifications.

Most important in establishing the revolutionary study ethos in the entire party and the whole society is for functionaries and working people to have a correct viewpoint and attitude toward study.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and secretary of the same committee, pointed out:

"Study is the foremost duty of people making revolution. Cadres, party members and working people must have a correct viewpoint and position toward study and take part in study voluntarily."

Study, an act of ingesting ideological and spiritual food, can reap good results only when backed up by high voluntariness and passion. When they keep engraved the party slogan on their hearts—the slogan that study is the foremost duty for those making revolution—

functionaries and working people can always find time for study and give full play to the ethos of making study a routine way of life and a habit.

The revolutionary has to continue the revolution until the moment of his death, and to do so, must study until the moment of death. Therefore, study is not something optional but the most important, essential revolutionary work. We must give it top priority at any time, at any place and in any work. Following the example set by the anti-Japanese guerrillas, who never skipped their studies even when they had to skip their meals, who always carried books and took part in studies even when they were on the march or at the bonfire, our functionaries and working people must thoroughly establish the ethos of studying all the time except during sleeping hours.

All the functionaries and working people must be diligent and passionate students and read many books including works of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and party literature.

Books are a reservoir of knowledge offering spiritual food which revolutionaries cannot do without. It is from books that revolutionaries can gain multifarious knowledge about society and nature, including politics, economics, culture, science, military affairs, and morals. Revolutionaries cannot live nor engage in any revolutionary activity without reading books. Books are a lifetime fellow traveler that one should not abandon. They are an excellent teacher.

Functionaries and working people must deeply study works of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and party literature. They must study systematically and look at every aspect of the works of the great leader published in the past, particularly his writings "On the Communist Indoctrination" and "On Instituting a New Economic Management System" printed recently in NODONG SINMUN. Also, they must deeply study articles by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, such as "On Several Problems Arising in the Chuche Ideology Indoctrination" and "On Firmly Establishing the Chuche View of the Revolution." All the functionaries and working people must thus arm themselves firmly with the ideology and theories of our party, thinking and acting in accordance with the party's ideology and theories under all circumstances.

At the same time, studies to broaden multifarious knowledge and common sense must be stepped up. Functionaries and working people must study and study more diligently with a high revolutionary spirit and sense of responsibility in order to master modern science and technology. They must read more books to broaden their general common sense on history, geography, culture, arts and the current situations in various countries of the world.

Especially, guiding functionaries must become a role model in study.

The developing realities demand that functionaries be competent organizers, propagandists and implementers in the execution of party policies. Only when functionaries are capable and keep their levels high can they organize and command struggles to implement party policies and fully discharge their basic responsibility as commanding personnel of the revolution. Fulfillment of the task of improving the work method and style through embodying the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method thoroughly also depends on how we raise the politico-administrative qualifications of functionaries.

Bearing in mind that they fall short of what the party demands of them in their politico-administrative qualifications, functionaries must make earnest efforts to improve their qualifications.

Party organizations have an important role to play in establishing the revolutionary study ethos. They must closely plan and coordinate and carry out organizational political work to step up studies among functionaries and working people. Party organizations must vigorously carry out ideological indoctrination work and ensure that functionaries and working people participate in studies with sincerity and high voluntariness. They must also strengthen their study discipline. At the same time, by using various forms and methods, including the question-and-answer format, self-study and group study, lectures and debates, regular study and intensive study, they must work energetically to help functionaries and working people arm themselves firmly with the chuche ideology and upgrade their politico-administrative qualifications. Especially, they must make higher demands of guiding functionaries, ensuring that they lead by personal example in establishing the revolutionary study ethos, and that they personally visit various branches and units, make speeches or give lectures frequently.

It is important to ensure sufficient study conditions for functionaries and working people. Especially, to help them broaden their knowledge and common sense, plenty of materials on relevant subjects should be made available to them. Press, publications and other related units should provide more books and materials offering multifarious knowledge and common sense to help functionaries and working people in their studies.

All the functionaries and working people must continue to carry through brilliantly the party's intent of thoroughly establishing the revolutionary study ethos in the entire party and the whole society, and by doing so, prepare themselves firmly as true, chuche-type communist revolutionaries and accelerate our revolution and construction even more dynamically.

Radio Essay Lauds 'Beloved Leader' Kim Chong-il

SK2602041890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Radio essay: "Under the Rays of Guidance"]

[Text] In the land where the sunlight of February is shining, the song of reverence, the song of loyalty, to hold him in high esteem echoes in the sky and on the ground. At this moment, when the minds of all compatriots rush into the old house in the snow-covered Chongil hill of Mt. Paektu, a place with a historical background, the second generation and the third generation of the revolution are today loudly singing of the nation's dignity and honor of upholding the great lodestar on the majestic march of the nineties, like in the days when, greeting the lodestar of Paektu which rose over the sacred mountain of Korea and China, with tears of joy and emotion, the first generation of the revolution, the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, carved the letters of loyalty on the [word indistinct] trees of history to boast of the nation's great fortune to the world.

Our people have a single ideological emotion which flares up more dynamically as time goes by. It is the lofty ideological emotion which has been deepened as faith and has become habit in the course of witnessing and experiencing exciting events of great improvement and changes on the days of traversing the road of rewarding struggle. All this happened while following the guidance of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is the flowering of the lofty intent of the respected and beloved leader. All of our people, regardless of sex and regardless of age, write and call so longingly the intimate esteemed name, the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, even in their dreams, because they cannot live apart from his bosom even for a moment.

Like a baby who bonds to his mother as soon as it is born and who feels relieved, cuddling up to his mother's breast, when our people envision the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's benevolent appearance which shines with the smile of the sun, their hearts are buoyant with an infinite feeling of happiness and burn with the firm determination to be loyal and dutiful to him, entrusting their destinies to him. What is the source of this ideological emotion of all people, which meanders through our society like a large river? The boundless love of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il for the people! Apart from the great tractive force of this boundless love that he extends, we cannot speak of the confidence and reverence of all of the people toward him.

Indeed, he has won the admiration of the people as the leader [chidoja] of the people. Precisely herein lies his prominent and profound character, which can hardly be found in any leaders in the world. What is most precious in the world is precisely the people, and the most powerful existence in the world is also precisely the people. The creation of material, ideological, and mental wealth is also the work that the people themselves do for the people. Likewise, the revolution to completely realize human independence is the work that the people themselves do for the people. The economy and culture exist for the people, and everything in the world serves the people. Therefore, they are valuable. There is nothing so sacred and honorable as respect for the people, to love them, and to serve them. The chuche idea is, in a sense, a lofty man-loving idea based on its profound man-respecting and man-centered principle.

Precisely at the basis of the ideology, theory, and activity of our party which are full of wisdom and our party's leadership which effects great changes in creation and construction, there exists an infinite world called love and confidence toward the popular masses. Indeed, love and confidence toward the popular masses are the starting point and great premise of all thoughts and practices of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. Our party's line and policies and our party's decisions and instructions proceed from the lofty love for the people's desire and welfare.

The great love and warm benevolence toward the people are also reflected in the monumental creators and edifices of the era of the Workers' Party which have been built and have risen up to the sky of the nineties; the silver-colored towers in the new vinalon complex; the dwellings in Changgwang Street and Kangbok Street in the capital; the great stadium and indoor stadiums which boast such a large scale and architectual beauty; and various other cultural and welfare facilities. What we enthusiastically felt after hearing the exciting news in the beginning of the new year, 1990, that 50,000 dwellings will be built in the capital in the first year of the nineties in accordance with our party's plan, was also precisely this.

Numerous apartment houses, which are beyond comparison with the number of the apartment houses built in the chollima Street in Pyongyang in the seventies and in the Munsu Street and the Ansantaek Street in Pyongyang in the eighties, were built in a short period of only two years. This was a great construction battle unprecedented in our history. Reflected in this bold plan, which is unprecedented in our history, are precisely our party's iron will and firm faith that it can make a flower bloom even on a rock, if the people want to do so.

At an earlier time, expressing the firm loyalty and firm determination to realize the great leader's far-sighted plan to expedite the future of communism, the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il said: The popular masses are most outstanding, most beautiful, and the greatest in the world. This is why I admire and respect the popular masses. I am an errand boy for the working people. We should make flowers bloom even on rocks if the people want to do so. This is precisely the leader's motto, and my motto as well.

Indeed, on the road of devotion on which he is preparing everything for the people, so many beautiful stories have been passed on as the legend of love in our times. In Pyongyang, our capital city, today, there is the 105-stories (Yukyong) hotel along the Potong River, the river of paradise, which rises high in the sky. This hotel is a great monumental edifice which will be handed down to our next generations forever. Although the giant building is showing its magnificent appearance today at last, its origin was in the forties.

In the early summer of 1947, the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who climbed up the Moranbong, together with Mrs. Kim Chong-suk, who was an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, listened to his mother's remarks that "when the country's economic situation becomes better in the future we should build many high buildings in Pyongyang city." At that time, saying that "I will build a large house in the future when I have grown up," he replied to his mother, saying, "I will build a 100-story house."

After some 40 years since then the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il initiated the construction of a super multi-storied hotel to change the appearance of the capital anew and decided to construct the hotel as a 105-story building. The determination to build a 100-story house that he made in his childhood did not change even though as time went by. Thus, his determiantion has been turned into a brilliant reality today after some 40 years. The lofty will that "we should make flowers bloom even on rocks if the people want to do so" has never changed. It has become firmer as the time goes by. Reflected in this lofty will is precisely his great love that all benefits provided to the people should be the best and perfect ones, that wealth valued in the millions should not be spared if it is beneficial to the people, and that anything that does harm to the people should not be allowed.

During the period of 10 years since its founding, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the quintessence of human love, has produced all sorts of praiseworthy episodes which have moved the people's hearts, together with numerous new babies. When triplets were born in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and when the country was seething with this news, foreign guests who visited the hospital could not repress their admiration to see a precious, jeweled carpet unfolding on the floor of the wide hall there. Some of the foreign guests said: "We know of the jewel carpet because we have already heard of it. However, seeing it today we are very impressed by it."

Watching the dazzling jewels at that time, a foreign social activist said: "We cannot but be surprise to see babies' mothers walking on jewels. We envy the Korean people walking on jewels. We have often heard that people laid pearls and jewels underneath their ruler's feet, but we have never heard that the ruler laid pearls and jewels underneath the people's feet. Indeed, His Excellency Kim Chong-il is the great son of the people."

The stories which will be passed on to the distant future as beautiful legends are everywhere in this land. The people still vividly remember an event that happened seven years ago in a smeltery on the west coast even today. At that time, finding 10 worn-out sintering furnaces in the smeltery, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il gave the great benevolence of instructing that new modern, cultural, and sanitary hermetic blast furnaces be set in the smeltery. After the new blast furnaces were replaced, the problem on how to dispose of the old sintering furnaces arose. Workers in the smeltery thought that they shound not discard the worn-out sintering furnaces, the country's precious assets, but should continue to use them effectively, because some developed countries still used sintering furnaces. However, making the stern determination to replace the sintering furnaces with the new hermetic blast furnaces for the convenience of the workers of the smeltery, the precious assets of the country, he instructed the workers to destroy them without delay. Thus, the sintering furnaces were blown up.

On that day, when the worn-out sintering furnaces completely disappeared, on the day following the historal day when the great leader had instructed workers to destroy the despised furnace in the Wonsan Steel Plant without leaving any traces, the workers could not repress shedding tears of emotion. Indeed, amid this great love, a pullution-free, beautiful land of embroidered rivers and mountains, a pollution-free reality in which chemical plants breed goldfish in their waste water, has been unfolded before us. In every place where the rays of the benevolent love beam, an epochal miracle, in which workers, farmers, and working intellectuals are revived with new lives, has occurred.

The genuine love toward human beings cannot be contemplated apart from the firm faith to treat human beings as the most powerful and precious life in the world. The love toward the popular masses finds expression in firmly believing the sagacious and intelligent masses at any time and at any place, in spurring their boundless creative strength to the maximum, and in fostering and leading them to pioneer their destinies by themselves.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great teacher, the great comrade, who has fostered the popular masses to become revolutionary fighters and who has led them to lead a rewarding life. Indeed, so many people have grown up to be revolutionary fighters who, using his confidence and love as a benevolent nourishment, have been keenly aware of the genuine meaning of their lives and the truth of their strugggles. Thus, many people have demonstrated honor as the creators of heroic exploits.

By displaying the courage and will that the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's great confidence provided, the working class of Yongsong was able to produce a 10,000-ton press, the cream of modern industries, and the working class of Nagwon produced a large-scale oxygen separator. The Sohae Lockgate, as well, which has aroused amazement among the people of the world, was the fruition of creativity born of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's great confidence and love.

This era in which miracles and innovations are being created everywhere in the country is also a great flowering time of human beings' capability. The outstanding appearance of a tiny scientist, a tiny musician, a tiny literary man, and a tiny calligrapher, all of whom were widely introduced through the television screen, leads us to foresee with certainty the future of our brilliant scientific and literary arts and the promising and bright future of our socialist fatherland.

The hand of great love and confidence not only has fostered numerous communist revolutionaries with revolutionary ideological will and great creative ability, but has also seen to it that the whole country is full of a large contingent of new human beings of chuche type, like green forests. The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's confidence and love are the noblest and loftiest ones which embrace ordinary people in his bosom, warmly treasure them as revolutionary comrades and blood brothers, put them at the forefront, and, thus, share destiny with them. The rays of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's love are the warmest and most benevolent which beam even to those who have committed mistakes on the road to the revolution. In the ranks of our revolution in which the lofty will has been embodied that mistake is momentary and comradery is eternal, numerous people have glorified their noble political lives without departing from the track of genuine life.

Our party's politics have become not only the politics which trust men first, but also the unprecedentedly broad politics which rally the whole society into a great family. This is because the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il leads the politics. Our party receives, unites, and leads the masses with endlessly broad-minded generosity and magnanimity. The hand of our party is extended everywhere in this land. It is a warm hand which warmly takes care of even the slightest degree of misfortune and mental sufferings of the masses. It is also a boundlessly benevolent hand which embraces and looks after all of the people.

Our people vividly recall with deep emotion the (?immortal) fact that in the days of history when the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle were dynamically burning some 50 years ago, the great leader courageously decided to put an end to the wrong consequences of the struggle against the [word indistinct] and burned the documents of the suspects of [words indistinct] such as their statement papers, investigation documents, and documents on their evidence. Such a courageous act of the great leader proceeded from his infinite broad-mindedness and generosity which embraced the people with magnanimity and tolerance, not with prejudice and rejection, which treated them with love and confidence, not with suspicion and distrust, and which attached greater importance to their ideology and acts of today than to their past background.

It is precisely the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il who is further glorifying, with deep magnanimity and broad-mindedness, the great model set by the respected and beloved leader on the march on the road of modeling the whole society after the chuche idea. He always treasures people's advantages, rather than their disavantages, and leads them to socialist and communist construction.

Precisely what we cannot forcibly move nor can we pull is people's minds. Only such a person who has outstanding confidence in and love toward human beings and who is broad-minded and generous to human beings can move the hearts of people and embrace them in his bosom. Comrade Kim Chong-il's great confidence in and love for the people constitute precisely the great prime mover which pulls the hearts of people and the centripetal force which rallies the masses into one. Thanks to the wise leadership [hyonmyonghan yongdo] of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who, cherishing in his heart the confidence in and love toward the popular masses as his firm and invariable faith and duty, embodies this faith and duty with the rays of the sun, our revolutionary ranks not only have been more firmly deepened as an invicible united body of the leader, the party, and the masses, but are also displaying an unprecedentedly powerful might on the road the revolution.

This united body which has been firmly rallied around one center as one ideological will is an infinitely pure and clean body which cannot be found elsewhere in the world. Because of this, the mutual relations between our party and the people have reached the highest stage which cannot be called otherwise than a completely harmonious body or a single-minded body.

The party can vigorously lead the revolution and construction as the guide of the revolution only amid the masses' support. However, the lofty plane of the kindred relations between our party and the people cannot be explained with only the single phrase "the masses' support." When the party feels a pain, the people, as well, feel a pain. The party and the people live together. The party exists together with the people. Thus, the party and the people become one body. This is precisely a proud reality of ours today.

Our people have mastered in their hearts the greatness of our party from its wise leadership which puts them up on the hill of human respect and dignity and which pulls our fatherland's position up to the highest stage in which the might of socialim, the superiority of socialism, is flowering in full blossom. Thus, they have taken the realization of the party's intent and demands as the lofty demands of their lives and as their boundless honor, dignity, joy, and happiness.

The people throughout the country rise up like the eruption of a volcano, under the slogan, "we will jump into fire and water in response to the party's call," whenever the party appeals to them. Once the party makes a decision, they rise up as one with the firm and invariable will of "we will do it without fail."

Since our party's determination to build Nangnang Street was made public, iron works and steel works throughout the country have risen up without delay, cement plants have begun to make strenuous efforts to support the construction of the street, and construction workers across the country are rushing there. An old construction worker in a construction site where placards and red banners are flying and the flames of construction work are sparkling said: Arriving here at the site of the battle of constructing Nangnang Street, I recall the time when I participated in the building of 20,000 apartment houses in the capital some 30 years ago. I will

devote my body and mind to creating the new speed of the nineties by participating in the struggle to realize the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's far-sighted plan. The remarks of this old construction worker, who has gone through all sorts of hardships in the past, implies many meanings.

Earlier in the fifties, 20,000 dwelling units were built in the capital city with construction materials and funds enough only for 7,000. This was a proud event that has left an enormous footprint in the history of the great chollima upsurge. The struggle to build 50,000 units of modern high-story dwellings in only two years time in response to the party's call was a greatly rewarding combat aimed at drastically improving the people's standard of living as well as a struggle of loyalty aimed at effecting a great new revolutionary upsurge.

The passage of time has brought a new era to us. However, the target of our struggle still remains the same and the spirit and the manner of doing work that we should adhere to still remain the same. Conscious of this, all sectors of the national economy and all guard posts of socialist construction are now achieving miracles and renovations with the same spirit and verve demonstrated in the era of the great chollima upsurge and keeping the flames of the struggle to create a new speed of the nineties burning more brightly.

It is this noble love for them, deeply cherished in their hearts, being embodied in every one of the bold and daring designs and revolutionary measures unfurled by our party, that makes our people devote themselves, without a moment's hesitation, to the struggle for brilliantly realizing the party's intentions.

Embedded even in the party's clarion call to the produce-and-save-the-most struggle is the unwavering intent of the party which is determined to let the people enjoy greater profit within the shortest possible time by fully mobilizing all the inexhaustible potential in our economic foundation. So, our working people carry out the state plans without the slightest hitch and without conditions.

The mountains and rivers in the paradise, upon which rays of guidance rain, are brimming over with songs of loyalty, in the sky and on the ground.

We will keep marching along the path of struggle under the guidance of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, upholding the great leader, wherever it may lead even to the end of the earth and sky.

The the day of complete victory and the day of national reunification, the nation's longstanding desire, will dawn while we are on this glorious march.

Kim Yong-sam Denounced for Political Merger

SK2602094790 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Special article: "We Condemn the Traitor of the People"]

[Text] A strange situation has developed in this land following the formation of a new party through the merger of the ruling and opposition parties. The situation has not only stunned the world, but it also has thrown people into turmoil. Furthermore, the people are angry about the fact that the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], an opposition party, has joined the new party created from the merger of three parties.

The farce of merging the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], the RDP, and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP], under the condition of proposing a constitutional amendment for a parliamentary cabinet system, is not a useful political realignment as they have claimed. It is instead another political coup of the No Tae-u group in its bid to prolong its crumbling colonial military dictatorship. This is a reactionary offensive aimed at cooling down the desires of the entire nation for reunification and at building the barrier of division higher.

So instead of trying to regroup the vanguard unit and laying bare the sinister nature of the No Tae-u group—according to the will of the people under today's urgent situation—Kim Yong-sam, even though he is the president of an opposition party, did not hesitate to commit the illogical act of joining the ruling party's farce by throwing away the signboards of the opposition.

Because this political realignment is a coup aimed at securing a one-party dictatorship by monopolizing power and frustrating democracy, there is no way to view the role of Kim Yong-sam, who took the lead in this coup, other than as a traitorous act of selling the valuable blood of those patriotic youths and the nation who sacrificed themselves for democracy.

Because of his seething desire for power, Kim Yong-sam has become an unredeemable enemy of democracy before the nation by spontaneously crawling to the dictator's breast in broad daylight. Kim Yong-sam, who today conducts disgraceful and deplorable acts, nakedly reveals that the slogans for democracy he had shouted ardently for scores of years were nothing but a gesture to make a mockery of the people and a popularity tactic to realize his political aims.

The democratic and patriotic forces, which are rapidly expanding and gathering support among the people, are now brimming over with the burning verve of battle to achieve their ultimate goal—sweeping the dictatorship and winning democracy without fail in the elections of deputies to the local autonomous governments slated for this year, in next year's election of the heads of the local autonomous governments, and then in the ensuing parliamentary elections and presidential election. They will do this by taking advantage of the political structure constituted by powerful opposition parties and the minor ruling party.

A fundamental obligation of the so-called opposition party's president, at that fatal hour when hand-to-hand

fighting should be launched against the military dictatorship, is to stand in the vanguard to chastise the No Tae-u regime in a consensus with the people, by gathering the people's will and settling current problems with a firm desire for democracy.

Kim Yong-sam, however, has left the place where he should have stayed, according to the widespread expectations of the people. Instead, he enthusiastically performed his part on the stage for a chicanery, a farce produced by No Tae-u according to a scenario called, "the great conservative alliance," which the White House thrust into his hands. As a result, he not only broke up the political structure formed by the four parties—a political structure attained through blood shed by the people—without even heeding public opinion, but now he is also helping No Tae-u rush unopposed along the road of dictatorship.

The people still remember the voice of the Kim Yong-sam who ardently shouted at every stumping site for the presidential election of 16 December 1987 that the No Tae-u regime was a military dictatorship. If he is the president of an opposition party on the side of the people, he should without fail clear his conscience, so he can stand by the people to defend democracy to the end and have enough strength to counter the ruling party.

Now, what made Kim Yong-sam, a politician who led an opposition party for over 30 years and cried for democracy, suddenly turn his back on the people and go so far as to commit such a shameful and traitorous act as joining hands with the murderous dictator whom he had assumed was a target to destroy? Kim Yong-sam committed this politically unpardonable, childish act because of his political ambitions, because he wanted to come into power.

Kim Yong-sam's sole purpose in life is to grasp power to dominate the people with. Blinded by his private interests and greed for power, he deplorably used the people's desire for democracy as an effective means for seizing power. All the activities in which he stood in the vanguard under the signboards of democracy—including the hunger strike and the signature-gathering movement—were nothing but political gestures designed to cover up his dirty intentions.

In addition, it was only because of Kim Yong-sam's activity of ignoring the people's desire for realizing one presidential candidate in the general election on 16 December 1987, and thus causing the failure of the opposition circles—in a fight that was certain to succeed—that we know his nature. It is a nature that never yields, even to his greed, in order to seize power. It is a nature that throws away the people's confidence like an old shoe.

Probably, a firm promise for the alliance of the conservative forces will be made with No Tae-u in this political realignment farce. It is uncertain whether Kim Yong-sam's impatience and uneasiness at reaching the twilight of his life without realizing this greed for power made him quickly eat the food thrown away by No Tae-u. However, it is still early for him to be smiling, satisfied at the power which he is looking forward to seizing.

Kim Yong-sam should be held responsible for his activities against the people, for trying to turn back the work for democracy by joining this political coup manipulated by the White House. The people denounce Kim Yong-sam as a dog of No Tae-u, who seeks to prolong the dictatorial system, because he betrayed the people's desire for democracy so as to join hands with No Tae-u. In addition, the people now spit in his face as a turncoat and a traitor.

Owing to his ridiculous and traitorous act, tarnishing his own face, Kim Yong-sam is branded as a disgraced traitor. An enemy of democracy, he will be sternly judged by the furious people.

South Korea

Opposition's Kim Tae-chung Calls for Elections

OW2702073990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 KYODO—South Korean opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, in a National Assembly address Tuesday, demanded new elections and called the recent political merger creating a new ruling party as a "coup d'etat."

Kim, who heads the only major opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said the merger of the former party of President No Tae-u and two smaller opposition parties was implemented without voter consent. The merger, completed earlier this month, creates a superparty which controls two-thirds of the ruling assembly seats. No joined opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil earlier this month to form the new Democratic Liberal Party.

PPD leader Kim said new national elections should be held to coincide with local contests set for the first half of the year. He labeled the merger invalid and an "antihistorical coup d'etat." Opinion polls, taken soon after news of the merger plans in late January, showed a majority of the public supports the new party.

Kim also attacked the party record toward North Korea, saying more should be done to foster trust in the Pyongyang government.

'Verbal Offensive' Decried

SK2702075490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0737 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) denounced opposition leader Kim Tae-chung on Tuesday, saying his verbal offensive against the creation of the DLP by merging the ruling and two opposition parties "runs counter to the way of politics."

"His hackneyed offensive against the merger of the three parties and his insistence on general elections, which he really does not want, make the people feel heavy and uneasy. It is not the way of politics," DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said in a statement.

Kim, head of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), demanded in an address to the National Assembly earlier in the day that President No Tae-u call general elections and local elections simultaneously so the nation's voters can give their verdict on the merger of No's ruling party with the opposition parties.

"Although the merger may be unusual for somebody accustomed to seceding from politics, we are convinced that it is supported by the people and is a way to save the nation," Pak said.

Pak was referring to Kim's split with Kim Yong-sam to run in the 1987 presidential race, dividing the opposition and handing a slender victory to No.

"We will respect the opinions of the minority political group and would like to appeal to the PPD president to join hands with us in vigorously moving toward democracy, well-being and reunification as we see his calls for democratic reforms and reunification as being no different from ours," Pak said.

In his first major speech to the assembly since the alliance early this month, Kim also warned he will launch a nationwide movement to oust No if his demands are not met.

PPD Not 'Docile'; 'Rough' Session Expected

SK2202005890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Feb 90 p 2

[News analysis by staff reporter Kang Song-chol: "PPD Turns to Hard-Line Tactics as Assembly Sitting Starts"]

[Text] The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] made it clear to the new ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Tuesday that it will never be a docile partner.

Just five minutes after the National Assembly opened for an extraordinary session, PPD lawmakers walked out of the Assembly's main hall, yelling at Speaker Kim Chae-sun.

They were angered at the speaker's opening speech in which he justified the emergence of the new ruling party as a development "that can give hope and confidence to the people."

The incident was seen by many as a development signaling rough sailing for the first parliamentary session since the new ruling party's inauguration earlier this month.

Although they deny it, the PPD lawmakers are believed to have acted in accordance with a carefully planned scenario.

They are said to have obtained a copy of the speaker's speech for scrutiny in advance, and decided to make loud protests when he mentioned the recent political realignment.

Through the premeditated move, the opposition party may have aimed to test the attitude of the DLP, which has been formed out of the merger of the former ruling party and two opposition groups.

The move may also have been designed to serve notice that the PPD would never give in to the DLP, though it is less than one-third of the new ruling group in the number of Assembly seats.

PPD lawmakers say they could not help but take issue with the speaker's remarks eulogizing the three-party merger which the PPD had characterized as a political coup d'etat designed for one-party dictatorship.

Political analysts see the incident during the Assembly opening session as a prelude to anticipated struggles between the mammoth ruling party and the PPD, currently the sole opposition party in parliament.

The PPD seems to have worked out hard-line tactics for the current special Assembly session. Party lawmakers are saying they will prove to the people that the recent political realignment would not automatically lead to political stability.

They may have difficulty, however, in deciding the severity of steps they should take in the Assembly operation.

As many party lawmakers admit, resorting to harsh steps in handling every major issue will likely invite criticism from the public.

The ruling DLP is expected to assume a wait-and-see attitude for a while, while watching closely public opinion on the opposition party's maneuvers.

DLP officials are saying they will exert maximum efforts to solve problems through dialogue with the opposition. They warn, however, that their patience may run out depending on the PPD's attitude.

They say the DLP will not hesitate to use their new-found strength, when necessary. They hinted their party may seek to push some sensitive bills through the Assembly through a vote showdown.

The first major battle may come over the enactment of local election laws. The focal point now is whether to exclude party nomination for coming local council elections as suggested by the ruling party.

Opposition Assails Detention of Journalists

SK2302053690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0455 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) charged Friday that the overnight detention of two journalists by a military security agency was "a grave threat" to the freedom of the press and demanded that the military apologize for the incident.

Editor-in-chief Chu Myong-kap and foreign news editor Kim Ki-song of the SEGYE TIMES were taken in for questioning by the defense security command after their

paper reprinted an article from a U.S. daily that said a passageway discovered beneath the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] was thought to be a North Korean "invasion tunnel."

"It is a grave threat infringing the freedom of the press that the security command whisked off the editor-in-chief and foreign news editor of the SEGYE TIMES," PPD spokesman Kim Tae-sik said in a statement.

"We call for an apology from the military for these acts of arrogation by security agents who took the two journalists and urge the government to guarantee no further infringement of the freedom of the press by the military," the statement said.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES, sister paper of the SEGYE TIMES, carried a Seoul-datelined dispatch in its Wednesday editions that said that in December the Korean-U.S. tunnel neutralization team had uncovered an underground passage in the DMZ and suspected it to be another North Korean invasion tunnel.

The Ministry of Defense denied Thursday that the find was an invasion tunnel and called the report a "groundless rumor" based on a series of probing operations in suspicious areas.

PPD Considers Adopting Collective Leadership

SK2602050890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0446 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) may adopt a collective leadership system in an effort to change its image as the "private party" of charismatic leader Kim Tae-chung and the party of the southwestern provinces of Cholla, an opposition source said Monday [26 February].

He said the PPD is studying a proposal to revise its charter to replace the one-man leadership system with a seven-man council and is already contacting elder opposition politicians, dignitaries and retired generals about filling three of the seats.

Among the names being mentioned are Ko Hung-mun, a former senior opposition politician, former Reunification Democratic Party Deputy President Yi Ki-taek, former Commander of the Defense Security Command Gen. Kang Chang-song and former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Chong Sung-hwa. The source said most of them have turned down the invitation, hampering the PPD's revitalization efforts.

Earlier this year, Kim Tae-chung declared his readiness to open the gate of his party to all democratic forces in reaction to the merger of the ruling party and two opposition parties. The source said Kim is even considering retirement to a "rear line" of the leadership if necessary to refresh the image of his party. Observers, however, do not see much likelihood of Kim relinquishing command of the party in the foreseeable future.

The PPD made a sweeping win in the Cholla provinces but suffered humiliating defeats in all other regions except Seoul during the 1988 general elections. Many of the opposition politicians who oppose the recent realignment of political parties are demanding Kim leave the party leadership as their condition for joining the PPD.

No Tells Officials To Prepare for Elections

SK2302060090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0517 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONAHP)—President No Tae-u told top members of the government and the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Friday to thoroughly prepare for local elections due by June. Presiding over a meeting of senior party and government officials, No said the elections should be held cleanly and without illegal campaigning.

Touching on the economic crisis, the president said priority should be placed on stabilizing livelihoods and pursuing economic reforms, introducing the use of real names in all financial transactions as scheduled. No, who is a co-leader of the ruling DLP, asked the party and members of his administration to minimize the problems arising in the course of implementing economic reforms.

The meeting, held at the presidential residence of Chongwadae, was the first such gathering since the DLP was inaugurated Feb. 9 with the merger of the ruling Democratic Justice Party and two opposition parties. The entire Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, attended the meeting along with No's fellow DLP co-leader Kim Yong- sam, Pak Tae-chun and the chairmen of the National Assembly's standing committees.

No ordered the prosecution and police to use all possible means to create an environment in which the people can live without anxiety. Emphasizing the importance of industrial peace, the president told the government officials to sternly deal with illegal acts and block "impure elements" from instigating labor unrest.

The chief executive directed the government to prepare for changes expected in North Korea. To realize substantial cooperation with North Korea, No told them to make efforts to resume the inter-Korean economic meeting. He also instructed the officials to closely study problems related to inter-Korean relations such as the restoration of cultural homogeneity between the two Koreas and substantial disarmament in the demilitarized zone. No said DLP and government leaders should take unlimited responsibility for state affairs and asked them to cooperate closely.

Deputy Prime Minister Cho Sun reported on current economic problems and government policies, Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung on major diplomatic policies and Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku on South-North Korean relations. DLP Secretary-General Pak Chun-pyong, chief policy-maker Kim Yong-hwan and floor

leader Kim Tong-yong gave reports on party and National Assembly activities.

No Tae-u Addresses Press Foundation of Asia

SK1902031890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 19 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u, in a speech to the Press Foundation of Asia [PFA], on Monday exhorted all Asia-Pacific countries to end their conflicts and work for common interests and prosperity.

Speaking by satellite hookup to the Press Foundation meeting in Manila, No said, "The cold war arrangement is being demolished and a new order is taking its place at the doorstep of the 21st century."

He said the Asia-Pacific region, which is boasting of its "vast area abundant with human and material resources," will be the "primary axis" of civilization in the coming century.

"It will be a proud mission assigned for the leaders of all countries in the region to open the Asia-Pacific region," said the South Korean leader.

"The development of communications and information systems and sciences have transformed the wide world into a global village, and the time has gone when the territorial vastness hampered the friendship and cooperation in the region," he said.

No was among the leaders of five Asian countries invited to address the conference via satellite. The others were presidents or prime ministers of the Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan and India.

The conference opened Monday [19 Feb] with 350 managerial staff of PFA member organizations attending and is to discuss media reports concerning conflicts.

South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun was interviewed over the link about such issues as political realignment in Korea, the role of the press, and the economic development of Korea during the past decade.

DLP, Government Agree on Major NSP Framework

SK1702012190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] The government and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] yesterday agreed to establish a National Assembly information committee as a standing panel to check the budget and activities of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP).

The government and its party also agreed to abolish the NSP's authority to investigate crimes related to praising or inspiring "antistate organizations," as is inspiring "antistate organizations," as is stipulated in the current National Security Law. They also agreed to maintain the major framework of the NSP law and the National Security Law.

The agreement was reached at a government-DLP consultation meeting attended by Justice Minister Ho Hyong-ku, Hyon Hong-chu, director of the Office of Government Legislation, An Ung-mo, second deputy director of the NSP, and Reps. Yi Chin-u, Cho Man-hu and Pak Chung-sun.

With the agreement, the assembly could effectively check and deliberate detailed execution of the budget and activities of the NSP.

In previous days, the NSP reported to the Assembly Defense Committee only the total sum of its budget in closed sessions and its activities were almost unchecked.

At the DLP-government consultation, the government side said they don't oppose establishment of the information committee so long as the NSP's investigation authority is not restricted.

DLP sources said the information committee may have 10 to 15 members.

'Broader District' Councils Created by DLP

SK2102020590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) has decided to create 15 "broader district" councils with 279 constituencies electing 848 councilmen.

The broader districts are the six largest cities in South Korea and the nation's nine provinces.

The party also decided to set up "smaller district" councils with 2,699 constituencies in small cities, counties and wards electing 3,919 councilors.

Altogether, the district councils will comprise 4,767 representatives from 2,996 constituencies.

The decision must be endorsed by the DLP-controlled National Assembly.

Seoul broader district council will have 127 members (the smaller district councils in Seoul will have 543); Pusan will have 50 (248); Taegu, 28 (145); Inchon, 24 (117); Kwangju, 20 (75); Taejon, 20 (101); Kyonggi Province, 113 (491); Kangwon, 53 (268); North Chungchong, 38 (169); South Chungchong, 55 (237); North Cholla, 53 (270); South Cholla, 73 (347); North Kyongsang, 88 (427); South Kyongsang, 88 (426); and Cheju, 17 (55).

DLP To Move Against Private Club Membership

SK2302041690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (YONHAP)—A key functionary in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) hinted Thursday that the party will take action on complaints that 30 DLP lawmakers have set up a private club.

DLP Secretary-General Par Chun-pyong told reporters that the party will draw up a "party-level measure to

cope with recent political debate over some private organizations within the party, including the Laurel Club."

The Laurel Club is reportedly led by Rep. Pak Chol-on and is regarded the most powerful DLP faction with its 1.5 million members including some 30 incumbent lawmakers.

"It is undesirable for incumbent lawmakers to belong to a private organization," Pak said. "When I was secretary-general of the former ruling party, I told club president Yi Chae-hwang that it was undesirable for an incumbent lawmaker to take a key post in the Laurel Club."

"Except for Yi, I know of no lawmaker who belongs to the club," Pak said. "We need to find out whether incumbent lawmakers are participating in the organization."

Intermediate, Lower Grade DLP Officials Named

SK2702101490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0910 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party named 23 intermediate and lower grade officials, including four vice secretaries-general, on Tuesday.

Of them, 12 are from the former ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), seven from the former Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and four from the former New Republican Democratic Party (NDRP). The new ruling party was formally inaugurated on Feb. 9 as a result of the merger of the three parties.

Rep. Kim Tong-chu of Kim Yong-sam's RDP was named first vice secretary-general, Rep. Cho Pu-yong of Kim Chong-pil's NDRP was made second vice secretary-general, and Reps. Chang Kyong-u and Yi Yun-cha of the old ruling party was appointed third and fourth vice secretaries-general.

Rep. Kang Chae-sop (DJP) was appointed to head the party planning and coordination office while one member from each of the three factions was named deputy spokesman—Reps. Yi Sang-ha (DJP), Choe Ki-son (RDP) and Kim Hong-man (NDRP).

Rep. Na Ung-pae (DJP) became director of the National Policy Research Institute, Ok Man-ho (NDRP), chairman of the central disciplinary committee, while Reps. No In-hwan (DJP) and Chong Chong-hun (RDP) were appointed to lead the party's finance and peaceful unification committees.

Other appointees are Yi To-son (DJP), director of the Central Politics Institute; Kang Sam-chae (RDP), director of the political situation analysis committee; Kim Chin-chae (DJP), chief secretary to co-leader No Tae-u; Kim U-sok (drp), chief secretary to co-leader Kim Yong-sam; and Choe Chae-uk (DJP), assistant to Pak Tae-chun, who is No's stand-in as co-leader.

Rep. Chong Tong-yun (DJP), Sin Chin-su (NDRP), So Chong-won (DRP) and So Sang-mok (DJP) were named heads of the first, second, third and fourth policy coordination chambers, respectively.

DLP Panel To Prepare for Kim's Moscow Trip

SK2402005190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] The administration and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] yesterday formed a panel comprising several ministers and key party officers to prepare for DLP co-representative Kim Yong-sam's visit to the Soviet Union Mar. 19.

The panel members are So Tong-kwon, director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku and Pak Chol-un, state minister for political affairs, from the administration, and secretary general Pak Chun-pyong, chief policymaker Kim Yong-hwan, floor leader Kim Tong-yong, Reps. Kim Hyon-uk and Pak Kwang-yong, chairmen of the Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committees, respectively, from the party.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said, "The ruling camp decided to form the panel for close consultations between the party and the administration in preparation for Kim's Moscow visit."

Kim Yong-sam, who co-leads the DLP along with President No Tae-u and Kim Chong-pil, will visit Moscow for the second time at the invitation of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) under the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Chong Ho-yong's Reelection Bid Concerns DLP

SK2402004190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Feb 90 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Hak-nim]

[Text] President No Tae-u is being put on the spot again by his "life-long" friend Chong Ho-yong as Chong is determined to run in a Taegu district by-election to be held in April.

Last December, Chong Ho-yong gave up his membership of the National Assembly he won in the constituency to pave the way for President No to strike a compromise with the opposition over the settlement of evil legacies of the past regime. Chong had come under fire for his alleged role in the military suppression of the 1980 Kwangju uprising.

Chong, special warfare commander at the time of the bloodshed, asserted his innocence, though three airborne brigades under his command were dispatched there to help put down the violent protests.

However, Chong ultimately decided to leave the Assembly after a series of meetings with President No, his high school and Korea Military Academy classmate.

Now, he is ardently seeking to restore his "honor" and to run for re-election in So (west)-A district of Taegu. Aides to Chong allege that when Chong expressed his willingness to leave the Assembly late last year, President No made a promise "to help Chong restore his honor" some time later. Chong presumably interpreted No's remarks as indicating that he will be re-nominated for the district.

However, top leaders of the new ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], including President No, obviously hope that Chong will remain silent without running for re-election.

DLP secretary general Pak Chun-pyong hinted that his party will not nominate Chong, who is now busy meeting his former DJP [Democratic Justice Party] colleagues from Taegu and Kyongsang-pukto province in preparation for the by-election.

Rep. Yu Hak-song, chairman of the Assembly Defense Committee, is said to have met President No recently to sound out the party leader's position on Chong's moves.

Rep. Yi Chi-ho and several other lawmakers who support Chong are learned to have told "their boss" that it will be impossible for him to obtain the DLP nomination. Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, who co-lead the DLP along with President No, let alone the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, are certain to raise strong objections to Chong's nomination.

Therefore, Chong appears to have made up his mind to run as an independent. "Whether to run as an independent or not is wholly up to Mr. Chong himself," said Rep. Yi, chairman of the Assembly Legislation-Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Yi ruled out the possibility that President No will meet Chong.

If Chong formally announces he is running in the election, the tough retired four-star general is likely to wage an "all-out war" against President No and the two Kims, thus putting the DLP leaders into a dilemma.

Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, former DJP floor leader and a high school classmate of President No and Chong, said, "If the DLP nominates Mr. Chong, the new ruling party will face a tremendous challenge from the opposition as well as dissident forces. Many people will denounce the inter-party compromise over the 'Fifth Republic questions' late last year as a fraud."

"Controversy over the Fifth Republic questions is likely to flare up again on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Kwangju incident on May 18," he said.

He went on, "If Mr. Chong defeats a DLP nominee in the upcoming election, it would be another vital blow to the newly-created large ruling party."

Other options for the DLP would be either not to field its candidate to help Chong win the election or to give another public post to Chong. These would also be risky for the DLP.

Communications Ministry on Koreasat Project

SK2002073790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—The Communications Ministry said Tuesday South Korea will have a foreign-built and launched telecommunications-broadcasting satellite in orbit by 1996 and a multi-purpose satellite for communication, broadcasting and weather services by 2004.

A ministry spokesman said South Korean research institutes and businesses will participate in the production and launch of the telecommunications-broadcasting satellite, dubbed "Koreasat," to obtain systems engineering, transponder and satellite control technologies. With the know-how accumulated by 1996, Korea will design and produce a satellite on its own, and hopes to launch a "test" satellite by 2000, he said.

Based on the results of the test, a multi-purpose satellite will be put into orbit around 2006 to replace the satellite to be launched by 1996, he said. Design and production of a multi-purpose satellite is very difficult at present, but satellite know-how will be developed substantially in the coming century, the spokesman said.

In a separate plan, the Science and Technology Ministry will put a Korean-made observation satellite into orbit in 1993.

The observation satellite will analyze the air surrounding the Korean peninsula, explore natural resources and collect information on agriculture and fishing, according to the Science and Technology Ministry.

Development of the satellite, which will provide valuable information for the development of national land and other resources, is part of the ministry's 10-year satellite development project.

So far, Korea has been completely dependent upon foreign satellites for such information. Some 370 satellites are orbiting the earth and about 100 of them are functioning. There are 16 communications satellites, three for broadcasting, three for communications and broadcasting and one multi-purpose satellite.

* KTA To Invest $4.8 Billion in Research

WA2202040090

[Editorial Report] The Korea Telecommunications Authority [KTA] has decided to invest 3.283 trillion won [$4.8 billion] in research and development by the year 2001 in an effort to raise South Korea's telecommunications technology to that of the G-7 advanced countries.

According to the work plan KTA submitted to the Communications Ministry on 15 February, this year its research and development investment will be 3.8 percent of its anticipated revenue, or 133 billion won [$193 million]. This investment will gradually increase to 5 percent in 1996 and to 6 percent in 2001, and will total

3.283 trillion won [$4.8 billion] by 2001. Also, it will convert the research and development team established earlier this year into a central research center, and will establish in phases a software technology research center, a cable installation technology research center, and a basic technology research center. These centers will be developed into world-class research centers.

KTA will develop a domestic time-division exchange [TDX] and an integrated services digital network [ISDN], and will offer introductory ISDN service this year. It also plans to introduce "telelighting," which simultaneously transmits voice, the printed word, and images, along with videophones, caller ID phone service, and call-only portable telephones. As part of its plan to distribute 10 million personal computers to increase information communications usage, KTA will supply free of charge 28,000 computers to 1,230 schools and provide 10,000 to the public for reference use.

Moreover, in order to popularize facsimile transmission, it has decided to set up staffed public facsimile facilities in the second half of this year and unstaffed public facsimiles next year.

In addition, it will invest 900 billion won [$1.3 billion] in cable television by 2001, establishing a nationwide cable TV network. Next year it will offer cable TV service to 10,000 households in the Mokdong apartments in Sanggye-dong, Seoul, on a trial basis.

Having designated 1990 as the "first year of industrial communications development," KTA has also decided to establish local area networks [LAN] and to offer value-added network [VAN] services. It will also speed up plans for virtual network systems [VNS] service, which provide closed-circuit service through public telephone networks, and will participate in "intelligent building" projects (buildings with built-in hi-tech facilities).

Fliers Lauding Kim Chong-il Found on Campuses

SK1702011790 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Fliers praising north Korea's "dear leader" Kim Chong-il on the occasion of his birthday were found in several universities in Seoul, police said.

About 20 fliers were scattered in a latrine in a classroom building at Tongguk University around 2 p.m. Friday. The title of one of the leaflets reads: "With all our hearts and minds we congratulate you, our 'dear leader' and the guiding star of all Korean peoples, on your 48th birthday."

The same printed materials were discovered in Tankuk University and in an alley near Korea University. They read: "We all south Korean people are looking forward to the day we can embrace with north Korean compatriots under the grace of our 'great leader' Kim Il-song and our 'dear leader' Kim Chong-il." Chong-il is a son and heir apparent of Kim Il-song.

Possibility of Change in North Korea Assessed

SK2402020690 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Feb 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Winds of Change Must Blow in North Korea, Too"]

[Text] Will North Korea change? We have tended to engage in easy wishful thinking on this question. Such wishful thinking generally comprised speculation based on stories of those who defected from North Korea or eyewitness accounts of visitors to North Korea.

However, a flood of information has streamed from Gorbachev's new thinking, which rejects fixed ideas about the world's people, and subsequent reforms in the East European bloc include not a small amount of valuable information with regard to North Korea. What draws our attention are the successive remarks by those from Soviet governmental circles—remarks that hint at changes in the Soviet Union's traditional relations and unconditional alliance with North Korea.

Georgiy Arbatov, vice chairman of the World Economics and International Relations Institute (IMEMO) of the Soviet Academy of Sciences; Georgiy Kunadze, chief of the Korean and Japanese Political Affairs Department; and other people said, "We do not oppose Korea's separate admission into the United Nations." They also stressed the limited significance of the relations of alliance between the Soviet Union and North Korea.

In a meeting with Korean reporters, Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, who attended an international conference in Manila, did not reject the possibility of Korean-Soviet foreign ministerial talks. Andrey Grachev, an adviser on national defense to Gorbachev, recognized that the Soviet Union was pressuring North Korea to open up as widely as the East European countries did.

We feel the forceful waves of the Soviet Union's perestroyka and glasnost slowly lapping against the Korean peninsula even though they are not as turbulent as the waves breaking against the shores of Eastern Europe. These waves will lead the Soviet Union to improve relations with Korea and will also lead North Korea to open up.

As if it were influenced by these waves, North Korea has recently shown a move that hints at a change, though small. This paper reported on 18 February that, at a meeting of ambassadors in North Korea from 26 December last year to 10 January this year, the Party Central Committee gave them instructions to "refrain from making remarks denouncing South Korea." If this is true, it can be said to be a "revolutionary" change. This is because this means that North Korea has abandoned, though partially, the principle of propaganda and agitation, a characteristic of communist parties.

Since founding the "Korean People's Army," which is led by Kim Il-song as supreme commander, on 8 February 1948 under the plausible pretext of "achieving one Korea," North Korea has considered the denunciation and downgrading of "South Korea," as well as its destruction and overthrow by any means, to be its one and only strategic and tactical principle. An end to the denunciation of "South Korea," at least on a diplomatic level, could be the beginning of a big change in the North's policy toward the South. In the meantime, just like the Soviet Union, North Korea has only devoted itself to military buildup.

Therefore, what the Soviet Union and North Korea have had in common was a struggle to fulfill production goals, the lack of motivation, bureaucratism, and dehumanization.

Gorbachev's perestroyka was intended to loosen rigidity and instill human elements in inhumane communist organizations. North Korea, too, has been driven into a situation in which it cannot but achieve perestroyka. We must help North Korea to do so.

Loan Made to Philippines for Telecommunications

SK1702091590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea will give the Philippines a 5.3 million U.S. dollar loan from its Overseas Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) for the purchase of Korean telecommunications equipment, the Communications Ministry and business sources said Saturday. The loan will be used by Manila to import Korean-made time division exchanges (TDX) and establish the TDX system in the Philippines, it said.

The government will seek to increase the EDCF to nearly 1 billion dollars by 1992 to help Korean TDX companies. The government approved the loan after dispatching a government survey team to the Philippines last week.

Samsung Electronics Co. plans to ship TDX and related goods by June to establish the system from the second half of the year as the government has approved the credit. The loan carries 4-5 percent interest per annum over a repayment period of 20 years including a grace period of five years.

It will be the first sale of Korean TDX abroad and makes Korea the ninth TDX exporting nation, following the United States, Canada, France, Sweden, Britain, West Germany, Japan and Italy. The ministry is seeking to expand the EDCF to meet the severe competition with advanced countries.

Communications Minister Yi U-chae also said the ministry will cooperate with other authorities to expand the fund from 200 million dollars to 1 billion dollars and lower the interest rate from 4-5 percent to 3.5 percent to help TDX exporters overcome their difficulties.

Soviet Rector To Approve Academic Exchange Pact

SK2602081190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0741 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—The rector of Moscow State University, Anatoliy Logunov, arrived in Seoul Monday to finalize an agreement on academic exchanges with Yonsei University here.

Logunov, who heads a three-man delegation, will sign a memorandum on implementation of the agreement, which was contracted in October 1989 between him and Pak Yong-sik, the president of Yonsei University.

The agreement calls for the two universities to cooperate in exchanges of faculty members and students, joint research projects, conferences and exchange of research materials for the next five years. His companions are pro-rector Vladimir Tropin, deputy pro-rector Sergei Zimenko and Victor Matveev, director of the university's nuclear research institute.

During a 10-day stay until March 7, Logunov will have a series of meetings with President No Tae-u and ministers of education, foreign affairs and national unification. He will give a speech at Yonsei on Wednesday on "the role of perestroyka and glasnost for the future of the Soviet Union."

Yonsei, which signed a similar memorandum with Beijing University in December 1988, has so far contracted agreements of academic exchanges with 160 universities in 12 countries.

* Academic Exchanges With Eastern Bloc Reported

902C0106A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 30 Dec 89 p 12

[By Reporter Chang Pyong-uk]

[Text] Thanks to the government's open-door policy, liberation of overseas travel, and communist countries' open-door policies, colleges and universities this year have actively promoted academic exchange programs with Eastern European countries, including setting up sisterhood ties and exchange of college students for training. Over 10 universities have already signed academic exchange agreements and have commenced exchanges. For example, a group of trainees has left to study abroad during the winter recess. According to the Academic Promotion Foundation (under Director Pak Il-chae) of the Ministry of Education, which dispatched some 1,200 college students to the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China during last summer vacation, it plans to send some 1,800 students from 97 colleges to the Communist bloc this summer.

Also, prominent scholars from China, Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have visited Korea, one after another, to attend seminars or give lectures, thereby bringing a new wave to the trend of studies, which has been exclusively pro-American.

Sponsored by the Korea Academic Promotion Foundation, Yonsei University sent 25 students to Hungary in July for 10 nights and 11 days. In addition, the school's President Pak Yong-sik visited Moscow University of the Soviet Union in October and signed an academic exchange agreement.

During this coming vacation, too, Yonsei University plans to send 50 students to China and the Soviet Union at the end of January and in early February, respectively, for nine nights and 10 days.

On 25 October, Koryo University, on the other hand, proposed student exchange programs between South and North Korea with Kim Il-song University, Kim Chaek Institute of Engineering, and Pyongyang School of Medicine. It has also formed a tentatively named Committee for Promotion of Student Exchanges between South and North Korea, whose chairman is vice president of Koryo University and whose standing committee is made up of director of the Planning Department, director of school affairs, director of student services, and director of school administration.

This committee has been granted a permit to make contact [with North Korea] from the National Unification Board, and it plans to make contact with North Korea through Mr Kim Chung-tae (medical school student number 58), who is an American citizen and president of an alumni association in Los Angeles.

Koryo University's Director of School Affairs Choe Yong-ik said, "We will do our best to realize this plan during the next semester." He added, "It is desirable to start in scholastic areas that are nonpolitical."

Koryo University, too plans to send 50 students abroad for study.

The trainees to be sent to Eastern Europe will travel through West Germany, Poland, Great Britain, and France between 31 January and 10 February 1990, whereas the trainees to be sent to the Soviet Union will travel through Japan, Moscow and West Germany during 10-21 February.

In the case of Sokang University, President Pak Hong and Planning Director Choe Chang-sop will sign a sisterhood agreement with the University of Heilongjiang in Harbin, China, on 8 January 1990. Director Choe visited this university in October and examined the possibility of establishing a sisterhood relationship. Once an official agreement is signed, the school plans to launch programs for exchange of professors, students and scholastic information.

In addition, Sokang University has decided to invite the president of the University of Heilongjiang to the 30th anniversary ceremony of the school's founding on 18 April.

Twenty-five students of Sokang University will travel through Taiwan and China during 9-18 January 1990 and will join the President Pak's party in Shanghai.

On 2 June, Dong-A Research Institute of Sokang University (under Director Yi Tae-ku, professor of economics) invited three professors of the University of Heilongjiang and held a seminar titled "Theories and Outlook of Economic Reform in China." In addition, on 9 November, the institute invited a professor of Jagiellonian University of Poland and held a forum to discuss the political situation in Poland.

In the case of Hanguk University of Foreign Studies, its President Pak Pil-su himself made a tour of various countries in Eastern Europe during 15-20 June and established sisterhood relationships with Jaiellonian University in Poland and Belgrade University in Yugoslavia. During his tour, he also had a detailed discussion with president of Eotvox Lorand University in Hungary on the issues of academic exchanges.

In the case of Songkyunkwan University, its Department of Confucianism is taking the leadership.

On 19 February, the department entered into an agreement on academic exchanges with the Institute of Korean Affairs (under Director Kang Maeng-san) of Yonbyon University in China, which set up a joint research on the Korean race through mutual exchanges of professors, graduate students and research scholars.

Prior to this, on 14 February, Songkyunkwan University established a relationship with the Research Association of Confucianism of Beijing University and decided to launch publication of the *Chu-tzu Analects* and beginning the tasks of modernizing the Confucian culture.

In addition, Songkyunkwan University plans to invite three professors from Beijing University to the International Academic Convention, which will be held in May 1990 under the sponsorship of the Institute of Taedong Culture.

In the case of Hanyang University, its research institution, the Institute of Chinese and Soviet Affairs (under Director Yu Se-hi, 49, professor of political science) entered into an agreement of academic exchanges with the Far East Institute (under Director Titarenko), which is an organ of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, in September 1988, and it commenced academic exchanges with the University of Heilongjiang in China in December 1988. Since then, it has been participating in formal academic exchanges with five institutions in China, including Yoyong Institute of Social Sciences and Jilin University.

Thus far, this institute has held two seminars, in Seoul and Moscow, jointly with the Far East Institute, which were titled "The Soviet Policy on Korea and Outlook for Korean-Soviet Exchanges" and "The Korean-Soviet Economic Cooperation." In addition, it has held two seminars in Seoul with the University of Heilongjiang, and has held several non-public seminars with other Chinese universities.

In the case of Kyonghi University, in early November, its History Department sent a proposal to make a survey of Koryo culture to North Korea after obtaining permission from the Committee for Promotion of Exchanges of South and North Korean Professors and Students, which is an organ of the National Unification Board; but it has not received a response yet. Kyonghi University, which has already formed a team of some 150 students, plans to develop and send a more detailed, second proposal to North Korea.

In addition, upon receiving permission from the National Unification Board, Kyonghi University requested on 31 October, through the Association of Ornithology, that North Korea send a letter of invitation to the "Explorers of North Korean Birds."

Meanwhile, the Academic Promotion Foundation selects candidates for overseas training among the executives of student associations and outstanding scholars, but its confirmation is dependent on the recommendation from each school. The Academic Promotion Foundation's program of student training in the Communist bloc is being implemented with a special grant of 2 billion won from the National Economic Alliance of Korea, making it free of charge. But because of the increasing number of applicants, the program is experiencing difficulties. An official of the foundation said, "With an intent to inspire students with a sense of participation, we are presently studying the method of letting the participating students pay about 10 percent of the total expense."

However, the programs of academic exchange and overseas training are expected to rise further in the new year. Most of the colleges hope that the government, which has established the North Policy, will provide positive support while and continue to promote the policy.

Burma

SLORC Discusses KNU at 79th News Conference

BK2402163490 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council held its 79th news conference with local and foreign journalists today at 1300 at the Ministry of Defense reception hall. [passage omitted] At the conference, the Information Committee explained matters relating to SLORC Order No. 1/90, Order No. 2/90, and Order No. 3/90 issued today, and the latest news on the capture of the KNU [Karen National Union] timber smuggling camp. [passage omitted] The Information Committee explained that news about the attack and capture of the KNU's Mawton region timber smuggling camp by the Defense Forces was carried by the local newspaper on 22 February.

The Defense Forces columns continue to sweep the Mawton region, and according to news received today, the number of captured KNU items are as follows: 12 bodies of KNU insurgents, 44 assorted small arms, 10,055 rounds of assorted ammunition, 48 assorted bombs, 79 assorted mines, 24 items used in mines, 97 electric detonators, four communications sets, four walkie-talkies, two pickup trucks, 10 motorcycles, one six-wheeled trailer, two sawmills, over 77,500 logs, and two D8-type bulldozers.

The Information Committee next answered questions raised by the journalists. [passage omitted] In response to points raised by a journalist from ASAHI SHINBUM, the Information Committee said that according to Order No. 2/90, although political parties that could not field a minimum of three candidates for the Peoples Assembly are abolished, candidates that have already submitted their candidacy will be considered independent candidates. The committee also explained that the KNU's Mawton timber smuggling camp is located near (Thong Pha Chat) of the country on the other side. In answer to a question raised by THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY, the Information Committee explained that the KNU's Mawton timber smuggling camp has good roads for transportation and communication with the country on the other side. [passage omitted] The news conference ended at 1400.

Member of U Nu's 'Parallel Government' Freed

BK2602144090 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] It has been learned that Thakin Thein Pe of Wakema has sent a personally signed letter to the chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council stating that he has resigned from the U Nu parallel government. Accordingly, the restriction order placed upon Thakin Thein Pe in accordance with Article 10-B of the 1975 Act To Protect the State From Destructive Elements has been revoked effective 26 February 1990.

1,600 Kilos of Opium Moved to Border Factory

BK1902043690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Chiang Mai—About 400 Wa rebels have moved 1,600 kilos of opium by mule caravan through mountainous terrain from inside Burma to a heroin factory on the border, just 20 km south of a battlefield in the Golden Triangle, opposite Mae Ai District.

Thai Border Patrol Police sources said yesterday United Wa State Army (UWSA) guerrillas transported the opium from Loong township on the narcotics route, unthwarted by Muang Tai Army (MTA) rebels loyal to drugs kingpin Khun Sa.

The heroin factory at Huay Nam Jai Valley, opposite Fang District, is believed to belong to a Chinese Haw group which has had influence over the UWSA, however.

Just 20 km north of the opium route, another 600 UWSA rebels have fought 200 MTA rebels on Lak Taeng hill while bigger MTA forces on other hills joined in with mortar shelling.

The Khun Sa rebels called on the Wa rebels not to serve the Chinese Haw—who have run the narcotics business on the Thai-Burmese border—as their fighting tools.

MTA spokesman Kun Sai said the MTA and UWSA used to be friendly last year and the Khun Sa army has recruited about 1,000 Wa people, with 200 deployed at Doi Lang hill.

He said the UWSA has fallen prey to Chinese Haw drug dealers while the Wa army has no land of its own but lives in Shan State.

But MTA guerrillas at Doi Lang hill were at the same time preparing to crush Wa rebels at Lak Taeng hill in the next few days, a source said.

Lt-Col [Lieutenant Colonel] Kun Sai also called on Thai authorities not to allow Wa rebels to use Thai territory as a springboard to attack MTA rebels on the border or as a refuge, otherwise this country would be known as the "Colombia of the East" and condemned as a drug-trafficking centre, he said.

Iranian Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD2602151490 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 26, IRNA—Ebrahim Rahimpur, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic in India, who is also accredited to Myanmar (Burma) presented his credentials to General Saw Maung, the chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council in Rangoon

Monday morning. During their meeting, the Iranian ambassador and the Myanmar leader discussed the ways to improve the relations between the two countries. Rahimpour who is heading a political delegation reached Rangoon last Friday.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Prime Minister Visits Zambia To Meet Mandela

Leaves for Visit 26 Feb

BK2602150190 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 26 Feb

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed left for Lusaka, Zambia today to meet with the South African black leader Nelson Mandela and several other Frontline State leaders.

Datuk Sri Datin Paduka Dr. Siti Hasmah Ali and several cabinet ministers were at the Subang International Airport to send off the prime minister. The deputy chief secretary to the Foreign Ministry, Datuk Abdul Majid Mohamed, is accompanying the prime minister to Lusaka.

Met by President Kaunda

BK2702082490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0659 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Lusaka, Feb 27 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed arrived here on a chilly and wet Monday night [26 February] to the warm welcome of Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda, who specially invited him to attend a historic meeting between black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and heads of states of the Frontline States of southern Africa beginning Tuesday.

President Kaunda, who led a long line of dignitaries to welcome Dr. Mahathir, affectionately hugged the prime minister and the two leaders exchanged greetings.

Immediately on Dr. Mahathir's arrival, the two leaders held talks for about 30 minutes when they went through the agenda for the meeting with Mandela and discussed bilateral matters between Zambia and Malaysia.

Malaysian high commissioner to Zimbabwe, Anthony Yeo, who is also accredited here, said later that Dr. Mahathir renewed an invitation from the Malaysian king to President Kaunda to make a state visit to Malaysia.

"President Kaunda accepted the invitation and is looking forward to making the visit this year," he added.

Dr. Mahathir also offered Malaysia's continued assistance for training Zambians and providing rubber seeds which have helped set up rubber plantations in this African country. The prime minister told President Kaunda that there was a lot of scope for Malaysia to train Zambian officials in management and development monitoring system.

Yeo said Zambia has agreed to send more delegations to Malaysia both at government and private sector levels to learn how Malaysia successfully turned its resources into value-added industries.

Zambia, with a population of 7.5 million, is rich in mineral resources, especially copper, which accounts for 80 percent of its export earnings.

Indonesian Envoy Interviewed on 'Drifting' Ties

BK2202105590 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 9 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Indonesia has rejected an allegation that it is forging closer relations with Singapore and is drifting away from Malaysia, its close friend in this region. Meanwhile, Indonesia has expressed the hope that Malaysia will stop being suspicious of Indonesia's military cooperation with Singapore.

In an exclusive interview with the UTUSAN in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Sunarso Jayusman, Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia, reiterated that if Malaysia continued to be suspicious of Indonesia's relations with Singapore, it would complicate relations between the two countries which were facing various problems and "challenges."

Following Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir's remarks expressing his concern over the possibility of certain groups trying to create sour relations between Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, the UTUSAN requested an interview with Ambassador Sunarso to draw a clear answer as to whether relations between the two countries are drifting apart.

Mr. Sunarso admitted that currently there are more problems affecting relations between the two countries when compared to the past.

Asked if he considered current Kuala Lumpur-Jakarta ties less cordial than before, the ambassador said, "It is more difficult to handle matters pertaining to our ties now than before." However, he reiterated that Malaysia remains Indonesia's "special friend" and this cannot not be replaced by anyone, not even Singapore.

Mr. Sunarso added that Indonesia understands why Malaysia is suspicious of Indonesia's relations with Singapore, especially when it provides Singapore with the facilities for military exercises. On Indonesia's decision, he said that this is because Singapore does not pose any threat to it. That is why Indonesia's attitude towards this matter is different from what is felt by Malaysia.

Upon seeing that Singapore is obviously strengthening its military forces by bringing in experts from Israel, and now Indonesia is also helping it by providing training facilities, the ambassador was asked whether Indonesia understands how Malaysia feels.

Mr. Sunarso said he believes that one day when Malaysia's population increases, Malaysia's attitude will be the same as that of Indonesia's and it will not see Singapore as a threat.

He said, "Actually, Singapore's military expansion is only for its own national pride," adding that as a small country, Singapore definitely does not feel comfortable being surrounded by the Malays. In such a situation, he added, Singapore probably sees Indonesia as a less dangerous neighbor than Malaysia because of historical factors. Mr. Sunarso said perhaps Singapore wants to make Indonesia a counterweight against Malaysia so that Malaysia will not apply too much pressure on it. However, he admitted that Indonesia also needs to establish good relations with Singapore and be practical, particularly for trade purposes. We have to be more practical because of increasingly stiff economic competition and declining resources, he said.

He also acknowledged that the tripartite relations among Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore are very sensitive when compared to respective bilateral relations because of peculiar problems.

Mr. Sunarso said there are not many problems facing Indonesia-Singapore ties because the ties are not much beyond trade ties, whereas Indonesia's ties with Malaysia cover all aspects of life.

He said because of such close relations, both sides are very sensitive over many things and therefore more problems exist.

According to him, there are many problems that Malaysia and Indonesia could not easily solve. For example, Malaysia is not happy when India buys crude palm oil from Indonesia because India used to be a major consumer of Malaysian palm oil. But India buys Indonesian palm oil because of its price is lower than Malaysia's. Mr. Sunarso said this is solely the question of trade competition. Anyway, Indonesia is still buying Malaysian palm oil for local consumption.

He also drew attention to Indonesian batik clothes which can no longer enter the Malaysian market because of a very high tariff.

He also mentioned as difficult bilateral problems the prohibition against the made-in-Malaysia car—Proton Saga—and Malaysian films from entering the Indonesian market. Besides, there is also the issue of Malaysian Airlines request for additional flights to Jakarta.

Answering a question on why there are many outstanding problems, Mr Sunarso blamed the Malay race's attitude that we inherited—both sides are less open in handling their bilateral issues. We tend to keep our feelings to ourselves most of the time. Thus, only when there is an opportunity do we gradually express our emotions. Likewise, the hanging of an Indonesian citizen, Basrie Masri, in Kota Kinabalu for a drug trafficking offense drew public reactions from Indonesia.

Asked if Indonesia's "elder brother" attitude towards Malaysia is also another factor contributing to the existing bilateral problems, Mr. Sunarso said the question of who is the elder brother or younger brother does not arise. As far as we are concerned, Malaysia-Indonesia relations are more like twin-brothers relations.

Mr. Sunarso said we have to use more of our intellects than our emotions in efforts to solve the problems facing the two countries.

The ambassador concluded that lately the source of Malaysia-Indonesia problems come from the economic competition that comes along with development in their respective countries. Economically, we are not complimentary to one another. We are moving towards achieving our respective economic targets.

The problem is that we lack resources and they are what we scrambling for.

He said that we have no difficulties in other matters, such as socio-cultural ties or defense cooperation.

Mr. Sunarso added, "Perhaps it is true that our relations are not as cordial as they used to be.... This is because we are now simultaneously developing and grabbing for the limited resources."

Commentary on Asia's Need for Western Investment

BK2102135190 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed hit the right note when he said recently that Asia has to act collectively to ensure its economic future. This is in view that North America and Western Europe might turn their attention towards development in Eastern Europe. Asian countries need to combine their strength and press for investments and trade opportunities from these regions. So it's a possibility Western Europe and the United States might divert investments and economic assistance to the newly liberated Eastern European countries. And there is even a greater possibility they would do this at the expense of developing countries in Asia.

As it is, Asians—including the ASEAN countries—are deeply concerned over the emergence of regional trading blocs. Firstly, the world already witnessed the signing of the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement to facilitate trade between the two countries. Now there is the proposed European single market by 1992, which threatens to exclude ASEAN group from entering Europe. Despite repeated assurances from European Community officials to the contrary, Asian countries are not convinced. Given such a scenario, Asia has to face up to a great challenge to promise a better livelihood for its people. This would be for the region to continue attracting investments from America and Western Europe. This will no doubt be a difficult task. Even at the ASEAN-EC

meeting at Kuching last week, there was a poor turnout of senior EC officials. This shows that they were not paying attention to this part of the world.

Eastern Europe has abundant cheap labor which would be an added attraction for the West. What must be avoided is that the developed countries should not relegate Asian countries to the background. [sentence as heard]

Given the vast differences between Asian countries, they nevertheless have to come together. Efforts to consolidate relations need to be stepped up. This will strengthen Asia's position and its bargaining power in trade matters. In the long run, Asia has to recognize that the West would still depend on Asia for its resources. By pressing for more investments and capital from the West, Asia would only be ensuring its economic future.

Even now the Asian region, except for Japan and some Far East countries, is lagging behind the West. There has to be transfer of technology for Asian countries to step up their efforts towards industrialization. Only then can Asian countries strive towards a better life for their people. In this context, Japan needs to take on a leading role in providing economic assistance to its Asian counterparts. After all, Japan should realize that the Asian market was one of the biggest markets for its products. In a way, it could be said that Japan owes its economic growth to Asia. As such, a lot more is expected from Japan.

As for the United States and Western Europe, they should not just disregard responsibility towards developing countries due to the events in Eastern Europe.

Singapore

Goh Speaks on Ties With Neighbors, U.S. Bases

BK2602155590 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 26 Feb 90 p 1

[By Tan Tarn How]

[Text] Singapore should continually look for new areas of cooperation with Indonesia and Malaysia in order to narrow any differences with its neighbors, First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said yesterday.

Urging Singaporeans to try to establish more common areas of interest with their neighbors, he said: "If there are differences, we have got to recognize them and find out how to narrow them, and if they cannot be narrowed, how to live with such permanent differences."

Mr. Goh also said that despite the "generation gap" between Singapore's new leaders and the leaders of Indonesia and Malaysia, he believed that it was possible to narrow the differences.

"I believe that the generation gap can be bridged if we recognize each other's national interests, if we set out to identify common ground, to widen common interests and narrow differences, if we show respect to one another and make an effort to understand each other, build up mutual trust and work together to enhance our common good instead of focusing on differences only.

"If we stick to this basic philosophy, I believe that the generation gap can be bridged—and we should do all we can to bridge that gap," he added.

Addressing 800 People's Action Party activists at the party convention at the Singapore Labor Foundation auditorium, Mr. Goh spoke of momentous changes taking place in Europe and the world.

He highlighted possible changes in Southeast Asia if the United States pulled out of its Philippine bases, and then focused on Singapore's bilateral relations with its two closest neighbors.

He said that while a country's permanent interests determined how it got along with other countries, the personalities of the leaders played a part too.

"Personal chemistry between two leaders can either enhance relations between two countries...or it can reduce the closeness of nations," he said.

Pointing out that bilateral relations could change as a result of changes of leadership, he said that while the leaders of Indonesia and Malaysia would remain unchanged for some time, there would be a leadership change in Singapore this year.

"The question is, can we establish a new relationship?" he asked.

At 48, he belonged to the "post independence generation" whereas Indonesian President Suharto, 68, and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, 64, belonged to the "independence generation".

"So, we start off with a gap in historical experience. Can that gap be bridged?" he asked before going on to explain what needed to be done to narrow the gap between them.

He said that Singapore would continue to do its best to enhance relations with Indonesia and Malaysia, as the three were neighbors just like flat dwellers sharing the same corridor. "If one household is watching out for robbers, burglars or thieves, that alertness will also benefit the neighbors.

"Likewise, if I engage in a little gardening along the corridor, we can help one another.

"If my flowers grow beautifully and yours do not quite blossom, then you will want to know my technique," he said.

On the question of permanent interests, he said that these broadly included economic, security and political interests and, in the case of Malaysia, the issue of ethnicity as well.

He said that Singapore's relations with its neighbors had improved over the years because they appreciated more the role Singapore could play in their pursuit of their own interests.

In the area of security, for example, Indonesia saw the Singapore Armed Forces not as a threat but as a factor contributing to its own security. Indonesia knew that a strong Singapore air defense would help it in its own forward defense policy of striking at an attacking enemy before it reached Indonesia's territory.

Mr. Goh said this kind of appreciation of each other allowed countries to develop their relations further, and

gave the joint weapons range in Sumatera and joint bilateral military exercises as examples of greater cooperation.

As for economic interests, he said that Malaysia and Indonesia increasingly saw Singapore as a catalyst to their own growth.

If Batam, Johor, and Singapore could form "a triangle of growth", he said, the cooperation would further boost bilateral relations. In the end he said, bilateral relations should not be seen as a zero-sum game, because it was simply not true that a country could only develop its own economy or improve its own security at the expense of its neighbors.

Further on Speech

BK2502144290 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Singapore is to continue to do what it can to enhance its bilateral relations with Malaysia and Indonesia. The first deputy prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, says relations between Singapore and our neighbors should not be seen as a zero-sum game. He said it is a question [word indistinct].

Mr. Goh, who is the People's Action Party's first assistant secretary general, was making his closing address at the two-day party convention. He said Singapore should find more areas for cooperation with Malaysia and Indonesia. Joint efforts to boost tourism, trade, and investment are areas of great potential cooperation. In the area of defense, Mr. Goh said we could look at having more joint exercises.

He said, while recognizing that others have their permanent interests, Singapore too must be steadfast in maintaining its interests. He said that while no countries can be expected to forego any of its permanent interests, we could work towards coinciding them. He noted that over the years there has been a greater appreciation of the role Singapore could play in the national growth of Malaysia and Indonesia. [Words indistinct], we started land exercises with Malaysia and Indonesia for the first time last year. But Mr. Goh cautioned that permanent interests can be clouded by political personalities. Mr. Goh said that the political personalities of Malaysia and Indonesia will not change for quite some time. But the political leadership of Singapore will change by the end of this year. This means establishing a new relationship and a new equilibrium.

Mr Goh told the party convention [words indistinct] historical generations of President Suharto of Indonesia and Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia. But he said this generation gap could be bridged by recognizing each other's national interests, identifying common grounds, burying differences, and keeping them within tolerable limits.

Turning to the American presence in the region, Mr Goh said it has given us many years of stability. Mr. Goh said that a year ago he was optimistic that the Philippine Government would renew the lease on Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, but now he was less optimistic. [passage indistinct]

During the convention today, more than 80 resolutions touching on political, social, economic, and cultural matters were tabled. [Words indistinct] to the party's central executive committee for consideration and implementation.

Minister Views Defense, U.S. Bases, Neighbors

BK2602142390 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Feb 90 p 27

[Text] Singapore will maintain its defence spending at 6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] as the security situation in the region has not changed despite the improvement in superpower relations.

The Second Defence Minister (Services), Brigadier-General (Res) [reservist] Lee Hsien Loong, who said this, added that it did not mean mean Mindef [Ministry of Defence] would be spending the entire amount each year as the GDP was much larger now than 10 years ago, and that a large part of the Singapore Armed Forces [SAF] had already been built up.

BG Lee, who is also the Trade and Industry Minister, told Parliament that it would be "foolhardy for Singapore alone" to cut its defence spending as no other ASEAN country was doing it.

He said that regional tension and conflict would not disappear even if improved ties between the United States and the Soviet Union led to a reduction in their military forces in the region.

He was replying to Non-Constituency MP [Member of Parliament] Lee Siew Choh who asked whether the Government had any plans to review its defence expenditure in the light of the easing of worldwide tension.

BG Lee said that the Government constantly reviewed its defence expenditure, which had remained unchanged for many years, to ensure that it had the best value for every dollar spent.

"It strives to keep the SAF lean and efficient in order to make best use of scarce manpower and limited funds for the security of the nation," he said.

He added that with a large part of the Singapore Armed Forces already built up, Mindef now had more flexibility to time the upgrading and replacement of SAF equipment and weapons in order to get the best possible value for money.

If the cost of military equipment did not escalate too fast and if the economy continued to grow rapidly, the Government might not have to spend all the money.

On the "momentous changes" in Europe and the easing of East-West tension, he noted that this was not followed by any similar upheaval in the Asia-Pacific region.

He then went on to quote the US Defence Secretary, Mr Dick Cheney, who recently said in the Philippines, that while some cuts in the US military forces in Asia were being considered, the numbers would be relatively

modest, as he did not see "the equivalent kind of change in Asia and the Pacific that we have seen in Europe".

Turning to the regional situation, he said that the outcome of the Cambodian conflict was still uncertain even though the war appeared to be drawing to a close.

He said the territorial disputes over the Spratlys and Paracel islands arose more because of a dispute over the ownership of the oil or gas resources in the surrounding waters than superpower rivalry.

He said that the disputes had been muted by the US presence in the region, including its military bases in the Philippines, Japan and South Korea.

"If the US significantly cuts back its military forces in the region, this will not be a signal for Singapore also to reduce our forces," he said.

"It will be reason for concern over a potentially destabilising change in the regional balance of power, one which may lead to other significant powers playing a more active role in the region."

Noting that the Malaysian government also shared this perspective, he cited Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed's statement last year when he said that "it would be premature for the US to consider withdrawal from the bases in the Philippines despite the apparent reduction in regional tensions brought on by heightened prospects of a Cambodia settlement and new peace overtures from the Soviet Union".

BG Lee also quoted the concern expressed by Malaysian Armed Forces' Chief of Intelligence, Major-General Datuk Abdul Rashid Raja Badiozaman, over the Spratlys and the Paracels and the possibility that China might become more aggressive if the US reduced its role in the region.

He said that the Malaysian army intelligence chief told the Malay language newspaper UTUSAN MELAYU earlier this month: "The situation around us is not stable yet. The smaller countries still cannot feel secure yet. America's presence is certainly needed, at least to balance other powers in the region."

To this, BG Lee said: "No other ASEAN country is slashing its defence expenditures, demobilising its armed forces or acting on the assumption that it no longer faces any external security threats. It would be foolhardy for Singapore alone to do so."

In a supplementary question, Dr Lee asked: "Does Singapore evisage any territorial disputes with other countries in ASEAN?"

BG Lee said Singapore had no territorial ambitions. "But I am sure that members will have heard of Horsburgh Lighthouse, or Pedra Branca, belonging to Singapore, over which from time to time issues have arisen with the Malaysian government."

To this Dr Lee asked: "Could it mean that the Minister says this dispute could imply possible clashes and war in future?"

BG Lee replied: "The Singapore government does not intend to go to war with anybody."

Total 1989 Trade Rises to Record High

BK2102045690 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Feb 90 p 1

[By Sivam Subramaniam]

[Text] Singapore's total trade reached a record high of $184 billion [Singapore dollars] last year with both exports and imports up 10 percent from 1988, outperforming the 7 percent growth in global trade.

The 10 percent expansion, though small in comparison to Singapore's record-breaking 30 percent jump in 1988, is still high by world standards.

According to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), world trade last year is estimated to have expanded by around 7 percent.

Figures released yesterday by the Trade Development Board [TDB] showed that the star performer in Singapore's trade sector last year was domestic exports by local firms, which rose almost 20 percent to $8.6 billion.

Although domestic exports by multinationals here grew at a slower pace of 9.9 percent, they accounted for more than 80 percent of the $55.2 billion made-in-Singapore items exported.

Re-exports turned in the poorest showing in the trade sector last year, with an 8.5 percent increase to $31.9 billion.

This was due mainly to weaker regional demand for primary commodities, electornic valves and non-ferrous metals.

Despite total exports rising by 10.2 percent and imports by 9.8 percent, the Republic's trade deficit widened by another $900 million to $10 billion last year.

But trade sources say this is not a cause for concern as it is expected to be offset by earnings from services such as shipping, banking and tourism.

And with its free trade policies geared towards boosting Singapore as a "truly global entrepot", the Republic is more concerned with the dynamism of trade, rather than trade imbalances, they said.

Japan, Singapore's largest import market with $20.7 billion worth of sales to the Republic last year, saw its trade surplus with the country increase to a record $13.25 billion, or one-third more than Singapore's total trade deficit.

Although Singapore's deficit with Japan worsened last year, its exports to Japan improved 9 percent to $7.45 billion.

Despite 1989 being the first year that Singapore exports lost their preferential access to the American market under the US Generalised System of Preference (GSP), the US still emerged as Singapore's largest export market last year, followed by Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong and Thailand.

Exports to the US rose 7.8 percent to $20.3 billion and accounted for more than a fifth of Singapore's global exports, excluding those to Indonesia.

The TDB does not release Singapore-Indonesia trade figures.

The weaker US dollar against the local currency also saw Singapore imports from the US soaring a hefty 21 percent to $16.6 billion, making it Singapore's second-largest import market, followed by Malaysia, Taiwan, West Germany and China.

Exports to the other three Asian tigers—Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan—expanded by 12.6 percent to reach $9.8 billion. Despite the political uncertainty in China, which affected its business potential, Singapore's trade with the country last year fell only 1.8 percent to $5.5 billion.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Forces Recapture Svay Chek Position

BK2402020790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Resistance forces loyal to Cambodian nationalist leader Son Sann yesterday withdrew from the strategic western Cambodian town of Svay Chek following five days of heavy attack by Heng Samrin forces.

Ok Serei Sopheak, a spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces (KPNLF) said last night that the General Staff ordered the withdrawal at 1:30 p.m.

The troops were ordered to establish a mobile tactical defence around the Svay Chek area, Ok Serei Sopheak said.

Phnom Penh Radio, quoted by UPI, also reported the fall of the town, saying:

"Our armed forces and people of Banteay Meanchey Province, while vigorously expanding their close cooperation, succeeded in completely recapturing the Svay Chek position. We are now in full control of the area," it said, giving no further details.

The KPNLF spokesman said that about midday yesterday, about 2,000 "Vietnamese-Heng Samrin" troops, attacked KPNLF forces about four kilometres south of Svay Chek on provincial route 69.

The attacking troops were supported by at least eight T-54 Soviet-made tanks, many long-range 130 mm artillery pieces, BM 21 and BM 14 multi-rocket launchers, the spokesman said.

Soviet Vice President Ibragimov Continues Visit

"For tactical purposes, after five days of defending Svay Chek, and facing an ever-stronger counteroffensive," the KPNLF staff ordered the withdrawal, the spokesman said.

Ok Serei Sopheak said that after a debriefing of 28 prisoners, one from the Heng Samrin 6th Division, originally based at Nam Sap, said among the 2,000 troops, at least 1,000 are Vietnamese.

During the last two days of fighting, the rebels destroyed two T-54 tanks, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, in Aranyaprathet, the chief of the KPNLF Operations Zone 2, Maj-Gen [Major General] Duong Sokhon, said his group is preparing to send 800 soldiers to attack Heng Samrin strongholds in Svay Chek and along Strategic Route 69.

Maj-Gen Duong said that on Wednesday [21 February], the KPNLF destroyed one T-54 Soviet-made tank and seriously damaged another during intensive fighting in Ban Kuok Ta Aek near Svay Chek, 25 kilometres from the Thai border district of Ta Phaya.

He said his forces, which captured Svay Chek on December 5, faced difficulties when Heng Samrin forces opened up with intensive fire from multi-barrel cannons (BM-2).

"There must be a number of Vietnamese soldiers camouflaged within the ranks of Heng Samrin forces because we are able to monitor battle orders being given in Vietnamese," he said.

He said battle tactics were Vietnamese, with heavy artillery support.

Maj-Gen Duong also said that on Wednesday KPNLF forces killed eight Heng Samrin soldiers and captured 24 others. Some 18 AK-47 rifles and rocket-propelled grenades were also seized.

Asked about 32 soldiers, who suffered heavy bleeding from the nose, ears, mouth, and eyes and recently brought to a field hospital in Ban Nongchan, near the Thai border, the Khmer operations chief said he had not received any reports confirming the use of chemical weapons.

He said the bleeding should have been caused by the impact of artillery shells, because Heng Samrin forces have fired several thousand shells to support their forces.

"The KPNLF is retaliating with some forces being moved to cut the supply route from Sisophon District. It is expected fighting around Svay Chek will intensify," he said.

Meanwhile, Gen Deal Del said talks between Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh leader Hun Sen are not concrete and he expects the Khmer Rouge issue will be a problem at the upcoming international meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta.

He said both Heng Samrin and Hun Sen will not accept the Khmer Rouge, because they were once Khmer Rouge themselves—"if they have not forgotten yet."

Gen Deal said that if law was to be used in the Cambodian problem, both would face harsher penalties than the Khemr Rouge because they had sold out their country.

He said the best way to solve the problem would be to allow the Khmer people to choose their own leader.

Reinforcements Sent

BK2602094890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Feb 26 (AFP)—Phnom Penh has sent reinforcements to the strategic northwest town of Svay Chek, which was being fortified since its recapture last week from non-communist guerrillas, a Thai military source said Monday [26 February]. Phnom Penh's Northwestern Military Command based at Sisophon township, a key supply position 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Svay Chek, was "vigorously" fortifying its positions in and around the retaken town, the source said. Government troops were seeking to make it a

permanent base for further attacks in northwestern Cambodia, said the Thai officer, stationed in Aranyaprathet border town, 240 kilometers (149 miles) east of here.

Svay Chek straddles Highway 69, running parallel with the Thai border just inside Cambodia's northwestern Banteay Meanchey Province. It was recaptured from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) guerrillas Friday by a Phnom Penh mechanized force of 2,500 troops. Phnom Penh's force, backed by tanks, armored vehicles, truck-mounted multiple rocket launchers and artillery, was reported to be heading up Highway 69 towards Thmar Puok, the main KPNLF base in northern Oddar Meanchey Province, some 18 kilometers (11 miles) northwest of Svay Check and opposite the Thai border village of Ban Sa Ngae, the officer said. Resistance sources said Monday that two of the Soviet-built T-54 tanks were destroyed during the battle of Svay Chek.

The officer said Cambodian Government troops in Svay Chek had "regrouped" and, joined by a fresh contingent of reinforcements dispatched from Sisophon, were readying an "all-out" counteroffensive against guerrilla positions near the Thai border sometime this week. Thai military experts said Phnom Penh was expected to attack two targets in addition to Thmar Puok. One was an area in northwest Banteay Meanchey where there were five villages defended by some 1,500 KPNLF troops of the 1st Battalion under the command of Major Pol Reung.

The other target was expected to be KPNLF sanctuaries hugging the Thai border opposite the Thai villages of Angsila, Nong Chan, Non Mak Mun, Nong Samet, Sa Ngae and Sanlo Cha-Ngan, they said. Thai district officers said early Monday that Phnom Penh's key artillery base at Phum Nimit, on Highway 5 halfway between Sisophon and the Poipet border town, had opened a heavy barrage of artillery and rockets on KPNLF positions close to the Thai border. Casualities among the guerrillas were still unknown, they said.

Another Phnom Penh force had advanced near a KPNLF position at Phum Yeang Dangkom and O Kansaeng Canal, between five and eight kilometers (three and five miles) from the Thai village of Nong Chan, but fighting had not started, they said. [passage omitted] The KPNLF, loyal to former Prime Minister Son Sann, and the National Sihanoukist Army (ANS) of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, both noncommunist, are allied with the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge in opposing Phnom Penh, which is supported by Vietnam.

An ANS press statement issued here Monday said its troops had launched a "surprise attack" Sunday on government positions at Ph'ong, Kon Kriel, Kouk Sleng, Kamdek, Chheu Kram and Tonle Sar Villages near Samraong, the seat of Cambodia's northern province of Oddar Meanchey. A tank and a BTR-60 armored personnel carrier (APC) were destroyed at Tonle Sar, while two APC's and two GAZ-66 troop carrier trucks were destroyed near Samrong, the ANS said. The government troops were ambushed and wiped out, it said. [passage omitted]

276 Enemy Soldiers Killed

BK2602134590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Feb 90

["Report from the front line"]

[Text] According to news sources in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, while continuing to consolidate and expand the position of strength and superiority of our State of Cambodia, the three categories of armed forces of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province independently accelerated operations to seek and destroy the remnant forces of the three Khmer reactionary groups, firmly controlling all battlefields and ensuring firm security for the areas under their responsibility. The militia forces have further displayed their remarkable feats of arms and high fighting ingenuity through training and tempering directly conducted on the battlefields. As a matter of fact, the militiamen of Sasar Sdam Commune, Puok District, killed 12 enemy soldiers and seized 10 weapons, two field radio sets, and some other material on 22 February.

It was also reported from the 4th Military Region that as a result of the sweeping operations conducted by our armed forces on the Svay Chek battlefield and other secondary fronts from 14 to 23 February, 276 enemy soldiers were killed, 180 wounded, and 12 captured. Our forces also seized 472 assorted weapons and more than 100 metric tons of assorted munitions. The results of the fighting together with the successive victories that we have won so far clearly show that the fighting ability of our cadres, combatants, and militiamen has been steadily heightened, thus enabling us to take care of our own national defense duty and to protect the gains of the national society and contributing to further strengthening and raising the prestige of the State of Cambodia both at home and abroad.

Capture of Airport Reported

BK2702022190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Aranyaprathet, Prachin Buri Province—Khmer Rouge guerrillas yesterday captured the airport in Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city, in a major counter-offensive against Phnom Penh forces, Thai military sources said.

The Khmer Rouge and Sihanoukian National Army mounted simultaneous attacks on a string of government bases in an effort to halt the government troops' ferocious advance on their resistance ally's key stronghold in western Cambodia, the sources said.

Khmer Rouge soldiers from divisions 320 and 450 launched an attack and seized Bek Chan airport in a suburb of Battambang, a city of 100,000 people, 320

kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh, the sources cited Khmer Rouge radio transmissions as saying.

It was not clear if the Khmer Rouge, which in January launched hit-and-run attacks in Battambang would hold the airport, AGENCE FRANCE PRESS quoted the sources as saying.

Yesterday's attacks may have been intended more for propaganda than taking territory, analysts said.

Cambodian guerrilla sources in Bangkok said they had reports the Khmer Rouge had not only taken Battambang airport but also had surrounded Svay Chek, former Khmer People's Liberation Front (KPNLF) stronghold about 100 kms north of Battambang.

The KPNLF lost its Svay Chek base to the government force on Friday and its Thmar Puok stronghold, which it co-administers with Sihanukian army, is now threatened.

The government's blitzkrieg sent thousands of civilians loyal to the KPNLF fleeing to the Thai border and the resistance group yesterday appealed for international resistance for its people.

A Thai military officer at the border town of Aranyaprathet said a powerful column of Cambodian government and Vietnamese forces was believed headed for the town of Thmar Puok, about 25 kms from the Thai border and equal distance from the town of Svay Chek which fell to a sudden government assault on Friday.

"Our intelligence showed that about 3,000 government troops with 20 tanks and armoured personnel carriers were heading for Thmar Puok," said the officer.

Rumours that Vietnamese troops reported among the Cambodian government force were equipped with chemical weapons added to fears among the population, he said.

About 5,000 civilians fled to the Thai border on ox carts and on foot, bringing their farm animals and whatever belongings they could carry. They have begun building makeshift shelters near the border opposite a UN-supplied refugee camp called Site 2 that shelters 160,000 refugees from fighting in the earlier 1980s.

Another 3,000 refugees fled to the border from the heavy shelling and fighting near Svay Chek.

General Sak Sutsakhan, commander of KPNLF forces, issued an appeal for international aid for civilians affected by the fighting.

"During the past week the Svay Chek civilian community was a scene of atrocity, misery, horror, and heart breaking episodes," Sak Sutsakhan said in a written appeal provided to UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL.

"That is why, in the name of humanity, I would like to appeal to you, friends, friendly countries, voluntary agencies and international agencies for much needed assistance," he wrote.

KPNLF spokesman Ok Serei Sopheak said the refugees did not want to cross the border into Thailand and still hoped to return to their homes once the government forces retreated. He said the appeal for emergency aid would be distributed at Cambodian peace talks in Jakarta due to start yesterday.

Thai military sources said two allied resistance groups, the Khmer Rouge and the forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, yesterday launched a series of attacks designed to reduce the pressure on the KPNLF.

The Khmer Rouge hit three government bases on highway 5 south of Svay Chek with heavy artillery fire that triggered barrages of rockets from the government's Soviet-supplied rocket launchers, the sources said.

They said the Khmer Rouge, the largest and toughest of the three resistance groups, were also moving into position to attack the provincial towns of Sisophon and Battambang in an effort to force the government column to pull back and help in the defence of the towns.

Ek Sereywuth, a spokesman for the National Sihanoukist Army (ANS), said its forces launched simultaneous attacks on six government positions north of Thmar Puok near the district town of Samrong on Sunday.

He said the attacks began just after dawn and succeeded in ambushing an armoured rescue column dispatched to reinforce one of the outposts.

One Soviet-built T-54 tank, three armoured personnel carriers, and two troop trucks were destroyed in the fighting. He said 12 prisoners were captured.

He said there were initial reports that the attacks had already brought the government advance to a halt and sent the forces retreating to Sisophon. This report could not be confirmed.

Cambodian civilians bore the brunt of a government offensive on Monday after troops using tanks and heavy artillery drove guerrillas from recently-captured areas near the border with Thailand, guerrillas said.

Guerrilla spokesmen said bombardments had killed or wounded hundreds of civilians, and relief officials on the Thai side of the much-crossed frontier prepared for a new stream of refugees.

The guerrillas spoke bitterly about a Chinese cut-off in weapon supplies which they said had left them little chance of hanging on to the slice of northwestern Cambodia they had captured since last September.

The reversal of their own offensive, the biggest advance in the 11-year-old war against the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, was seen as a political and military blow as they sat down to peace talks in Jakarta this week.

Said Preparing for Attack

BK2502011990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Aranyaprathet—As talks to revive the Cambodian peace process are due to start tomorrow in Jakarta, Heng Samrin troops are believed to be preparing to attack the district town of Thmar Puok following their seizure of the strategic Cambodian town of Svay Chek on Friday [23 February].

Military sources here said more Heng Samrin troops from Pailin and Sisophon are being deployed towards Thmar Puok in Oddar Meanchey province, which is defended by forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Heng Samrin troops, supported by Soviet-made tanks, heavy artillery including 130mm pieces, BM 21 and BM 14 multi-rocket launchers, managed to recapture Svay Chek, defended by the Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces (KPNLAF), after five days of heavy fighting.

The sources said Phnom Penh forces also seized 21 villages along the strategic route 69 in their attack on Svay Chek, located 20 kilometres south of Thmar Puok.

The military sources said elements of Heng Samrin troops are believed to be chasing KPNLAF forces to the border opposite Ta Phraya District.

The sources estimate the total number of KPNLAF dead and wounded to be about 100 with about 50 soliders captured by Phnom Penh forces.

Wounded KPNLAF soldiers are being treated at field hospitals, the sources said.

Border sources said yesterday 1,000 Cambodian civilians fleeing the fighting in Svay Chek have arrived at the border opposite Ta Phraya District.

More Cambodian civilians are expected to arrive in the next few days, the sources said, adding that many civilians were killed and wounded in the fighting.

The fleeing villagers expect more fighting, the sources said.

A senior official of the Burapha Task Force said yesterday the imminent attack on Thmar Puok is expected to have an impact on Thais living along the border.

Villagers have been alerted.

More on Attack

BK2502063590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0602 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 25 (AFP)—Phnom Penh troops backed by tanks, rocket launchers and artillery, having overrun an important resistance base, were poised Sunday [25 February] to attack another guerrilla stronghold, Thai military sources said. A "mechanized spearhead" of 2,500 infantrymen was headed for the non-communist guerrilla stronghold of Thmar Puok in northwestern Cambodia, they said. Some 1,000 refugees were said to have fled into Thailand to escape the fighting, and thousands more were expected, Thai border authorities said.

The troops, supported by Soviet-built T-54 tanks, truck-mounted "Stalin organ" multiple-rocket launchers and artillery, took the strategic town of Svay Chek on Friday, Thai military sources said in the border town of Aranyaprathet, 240 kilometres (149 miles) east of here. After mop-up operations around Svay Chek, most of the troops advanced toward Thmar Puok, held by the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), in Oddar-Meanchey Province, 18 kilometres (11 miles) to the north, they said.

Phnom Penh's battlefield success was seen as a heavy blow to the resistance guerrillas in the runup to peace talks with the Vietnamese-backed government in Jakarta on Monday, Western observers here said. The tripartite resistance includes the KPNLF, loyal to former Prime Minister Son Sann, as well as non-communist troops of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The third faction, the Marxist Khmer Rouge backed by China, is militarily the strongest.

Thai military authorities here said Phnom Penh's forces were mobilized from western Battambang and Sisophon, the seat of northwestern Banteay Meanchey Province and a key government supply depot, to attack Thmar Puok. Thmar Puok is a stronghold of forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk, the former monarch, who returned Friday to reside in guerrilla-controlled zones. Thai sources told reporters in Aranyaprathet that at 9:30 P.M. (1430 GMT) Saturday, Phnom Penh's armored column was about 10 kilometres (6 miles) south of Thmar Puok. They said Thai border troops had been put on alert to prevent the heavy Cambodian fighting from spilling into Thai territory. Thai military authorities said they were closely monitoring battlefield developments in northwestern Cambodia, and that Thai Army L-19 "bird-dog" aircraft were flying daily reconnaissance operations along the volatile border.

Meanwhile, Thai authorities in the border village of Nong Samet, opposite the Cambodian battle zone and some 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Aranyaprathet, said Sunday that more than 1,000 Cambodian villagers had fled the fighting around Svay Chek since last week. They said the villagers had taken refuge in Sarok Kok, a Cambodian hamlet near the border. The refugees brought their belongings in a caravan of some 60 ox carts. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were caring for them, officials in Nong Samet said. Neither Thai military authorities of the displaced persons protection unit, a task force in charge of refugee affairs along the border, nor ICRC officials were available for comment Sunday. But Thai border officials said the influx of Cambodian refugees was expected to continue, and that "thousands" could be crossing into Thailand as more heavy fighting was anticipated in the coming week around Thmar Puok.

Heng Samrin Praises Victory

BK2402073490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Message from Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, to cadres and combatants of various armed forces units and people on Svay Chek battlefield in Banteay Meanchey Province; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrade cadres and combatants in various units of the armed forces and beloved compatriots on Svay Chek battlefield in Banteay Meanchey Province:

On behalf of the party, state, and the front, and in my own name, I would like to express congratulations and great admiration for the successive great victories of

cadres and combatants in various units of the armed forces, and our compatriots in Banteay Meanchey Province who, from the very beginning of this dry season campaign, dealt shameful blows to the enemies at major points until seizing and fully controlling Svay Chek township on the afternoon of 23 February.

The resolute battle showing heroism of the highest order by all the comrades and compatriots on the Svay Chek battlefield testifies to the feat of arms by our combined armed forces and people against the warmongering enemies who have always refused to give up their dark and dirty adventurous maneuvers and collusion to attack and seize areas along the border for use as springboards to spread the war into the country's interior, oppose the Cambodian people's rebirth, and destroy the achievements our people have scored in the past 11 years.

Like other victories on battlefields along the Cambodian-Thai border and inside the country, the victory on the Svay Chek battlefield clearly reflects the masterful fighting capability of our various armed forces and people throughout the country who have most firmly stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the struggle against the three Cambodian reactionary groups to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and defend national and social gains and our Cambodian people's peaceful life.

The precious heroic example of all the comrades and compatriots on the Svay Chek battlefield is the pride and great joy of the entire party, armed forces, and people. It is a concrete lesson and experience testifying to the power of cooperation among the various armed forces units with the people and between our frontline and rear battlefields. This should be nurtured and further expanded.

Dear comrade cadres, male and female combatants, and compatriots: Over the past 11 years, particularly since the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia, we have clearly seen that none of the Cambodian reactionaries have sincere goodwill nor a reconciliatory attitude to find a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem; they still dream of toppling the State of Cambodia's state authorities through military force. Despite the tendency of progressive opinions throughout the world, as well as the goodwill of our State of Cambodia's party and government, to find a political solution to the conflict in Cambodia to quickly end the war and bring definitive peace and security to the motherland and our Cambodian people, our enemies remain stubborn and persistent in their activities on the military and diplomatic battlefields. They continue to more brutally and savagely intensify military activities and vigorously intensify the psychological warfare to boast of and exaggerate their victories to dupe public opinion and intimidate the masterful spirit of our cadres, combatants, and people.

For this reason, on behalf of the party, state, and front, and in my own name, I appeal to cadres, combatants, all levels and sectors of the armed forces, and our people throughout the country to continue to be vigilant, to vigorously expand the combined forces of our entire nation, and to move from the victory at Svay Chek to other great victories to thwart in a timely manner every perfidious maneuver of all the Cambodian reactionaries and prevent at all costs the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime by continuing to more efficiently implement the slogan "Everything for serving the battlefield and everything for increasing the people's confidence in our new regime. Our people's just cause for struggle will certainly win."

I wish good health and greater and new victories in 1990 to cadres, male and female combatants, and compatriots who are carrying out noble missions on the battlefield in Banteay Meanchey Province, as well as all compatriots throughout the country who are actively defending their localities. Thank you.

Phnom Penh Reports 16-21 Feb Battle Successes

BK2402141090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] According to a report from the front line, our armed forces—combining the regular, regional, militia, and police forces—recently launched vigorous attacks against various hideouts and temporary positions of the enemies in areas along the Cambodian-Thai border in Banteay Meanchey Province, scoring successes in these operations. On 16 February, our armed forces launched an attack in Pongro Village northwest of Soeng, killing five enemies, wounding nine others, and seizing 250 mines, ten rounds of H-12 ammunition, and a quantity of war material. On the same day, our units which attacked Kon Trei [words indistinct] killed three enemies and wounded four others. On 17 February, our police forces from unit 890 attacked the enemies in an area six km northeast of Poipet where they killed 16 enemies, wounded another, and seized 55 B-40 rockets and 600 rounds of 60-mm mortar shells. They also attacked the enemies in an area south of O Nieng, forcing them to flee in disarray and leave behind a quantity of war material.

By 21 February, all columns of our armed forces—combining the regular, regional, militia, and police forces, which have effectively used combined forces, means, and measures in their search-and-destroy operations—had scored permanent victories over the enemies on various battlefields under the enemies' temporary control. They attacked, liberated, and took full control of various battlefields such as Kbal Khting, Ta Ben, Ta Vong, Svay Khmau, Kouk Prich, Banteay Siem, Sla Kram, Kouk Khmau, Ta Pok, Krakaoh, and Kamnap. Our armed forces also killed or wounded hundreds of enemies and seized a large quantity of weapons and war material. Meanwhile, our artillery units fired barrages at various targets, destroying a number of the enemies' ammunition and material depots and positions. The depots at O Veng exploded and burned for two hours.

Phnom Penh Reports 22 Feb Battle Successes

BK2402141890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Here is a report from the front line: According to reliable news sources in Banteay Meanchey Province, as a result of fighting which took place on 22 February in the direction of Route 69, the 10th Regiment took control of Hill 111, captured five enemies, and seized 150,000 rounds of AK ammunition.

Also on 22 February on the Ta Ben and O Veng battlefields, the comrades-in-arms of this regiment captured nine enemies and destroyed an ammunition depot containing 37 tonnes of war material. On Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey battlefield, also on 22 February, the Sasar Sdam Commune militia unit clashed with a number of enemies during their sweep operation. We killed 10 enemies and seized 10 weapons and two ICOM [expansion unknown] field radios. At Ampil Pram Daeum in Battambang Province, the Bavel District armed forces killed four enemies and seized two B-62's and 400 rounds of AK ammunition in a battle that lasted for only 25 minutes.

Hun Sen Leaves for Cambodian Talks in Jakarta

BK2602052690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] On the morning of 26 February at 0800, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, left Phnom Penh on a special flight to attend the informal meeting to be held shortly in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Seeing the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers off at Pochentong Airport were, among others, Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Nguon Nhel, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh City party committee; Comrade Say Chhum, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Agriculture Minister; Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chef de cabinet of the party Central Committee cabinet; Comrade General Tie Banh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Defense Minister; Comrade General Sin Song, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Interior Minister; Comrade Kong Sam-ol, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; comrade members and alternate members of the party Central Committee; ministers and deputy ministers; and leading cadres from party, state, and front establishments, and central mass organizations in Phnom Penh.

Ambassadors, charge d'affaires, advisers, and representatives of various friendly countries accredited to the Cambodian capital were also present to see off Comrade Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen.

'Slanders' Could Cause Failure of Jakarta Talks

BK2602123990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1109 GMT 26 Feb 90

["Slanders About Vietnamese Presence in Angkor Area Rejected"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 26—The charges made by some Western countries about the so-called "presence of Vietnamese troops in the area of Angkor" and their intention to put that area under the control of the United Nations is nothing but to play down the prestige of the State of Cambodia.

It should be pointed out that there is not a single Vietnamese volunteer soldier in the area or in the whole of Cambodia from September 1989. Over the past eleven years, particularly since the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia last September, we have seen clearly that none of the Khmer opposition factions have shown any sign of goodwill toward a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem. On the contrary, the Cambodian Government has always demonstrated its goodwill by putting forward many peace initiatives in the hope of finding a political solution to the Cambodian conflict. The Cambodian Government has also announced its acceptance of a U.N. role in an eventual solution to the Cambodian issue, which has been warmly applauded by the world public.

The Vietnamese troop pull-out has provided the best opportunity for the Cambodian talks to make progress. But the Khmer opposition forces still remain dead-set [words indistinct] the present government of Cambodia by force. That is why they have made attacks in western border areas in an attempt to realize their dark scheme. In such a situation, the Cambodian Government forces have resolutely fought back and recaptured several areas along the western border. The most recent victory won by the Cambodian Government forces in Svay Chek has testified to the capability of our armed forces and people in the area to firmly defend the country from the desperate attempt of the three Khmer reactionary groups to return to power in Cambodia and revive their genocidal regime.

So, it has come as no surprise that the other side has resorted to slanders about the "presence of Vietnamese troops in the area of Angkor" to minimize the significance of our victories. However, public opinion here and elsewhere in the world cannot easily believe their shopworn propaganda tactics. If the other side is bent on frustrating the goodwill of the Cambodian Government, then the current informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta will risk becoming a failure.

Politburo Applauds Sihanouk Meeting, Thai Role

BK2502055390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Press communique of the session of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On 24 February 1990, the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee, to listen to reports on the results of talks between Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the State of Cambodia; the Thai side; and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk during the comrade's visit to the royal capital of Bangkok from 21 to 22 February 1990.

The party Central Committee Political Bureau expressed joy and happiness at the results of this mission and highly appreciated the increasingly active role of the Kingdom of Thailand in contributing to finding an appropriate solution to the Cambodian problem. The party Central Committee Political Bureau expressed sincere thanks for the reception and the favorable conditions created by the Kingdom of Thailand for the talks to proceed well. The party Central Committee Political Bureau considered this round of talks between Comrade Hun Sen and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, which led to the signing of a joint communique, as a favorable basis for the coming meeting in Jakarta and hoped that other Cambodian sides will refer to this basis and contribute to creating conditions for the Jakarta meeting to achieve positive results, which could lead to the reconvening of the Paris conference on Cambodia.

The party Central Committee highly appreciated the talks between Comrade Hun Sen and Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan and the sincere assistance of the Lao side in arranging for the delegation's travels through the country, which clearly shows increasingly firm relations of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries' parties and governments contributing to advancing the cause for peace and stability in the region.

Khieu Samphan Statement Prior to Jakarta Talks

BK2702021290 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Feb 90

["Press communique" of Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of foreign affairs, at Don Muang Airport, Bangkok, before leaving for Jakarta on 25 February]

[Text] 1. Our delegation is leaving for Jakarta to attend the informal meeting on Cambodia (IMC) to be held there from 26 to 28 February 1990 at the invitation of His Excellency Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister.

2. His excellency the Indonesian foreign minister has specified that the informal meeting on Cambodia is organized in the framework of the Paris conference on Cambodia and aimed at finding a comprehensive, just, and definitive solution to the Cambodian problem and not a partial solution.

3. As a victim of an act of aggression and occupation, our delegation will do its best to sincerely cooperate with delegations of all peace- and justice-loving countries to end Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation of the past 11 years in accordance with the deep aspiration of the entire Cambodian people, the Cambodian national government, and the international community. In this spirit, we will continue to adhere to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's five-point peace plan which grants the United Nations a definite role to ensure the genuine withdrawal of all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces and appropriate conditions for national reconciliation among all Cambodians through the establishment of a four-party provisional government under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership.

4. We would like to express again our profound and sincere gratitude to the Kingdom of Thailand and other ASEAN countries for the valuable and constant support they have provided the Cambodian people's just struggle led by Cambodian President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for independence, freedom, and national survival. We are convinced that they will continue to provide this kind of support to the Cambodian people's struggle until Cambodia recovers its independence, sovereignty, and neutrality with its territorial integrity.

Commentary on Hun Sen Statement on UN Control

BK2702040790 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary: "The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and puppets Hun Sen and Heng Samrin, traitors and Vietnam's lackeys, have not changed their intransigent stance"]

[Text] On 23 February, puppet Hun Sen, Vietnam's lackey, insolently and shamelessly shouted under orders from his master, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors, that Vietnam's puppets and lackeys will not allow UN supervision in Cambodia. The puppets and lackeys of aggressor Vietnam will not dissolve the puppet regime, lackey of the Hanoi Vietnamese. Elections in Cambodia will be organized by the puppets, lackeys of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors.

These insolent and shameless statements, barked whenever ordered by the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors, by puppet Hun Sen, traitor and Vietnam's lackey, before the meeting in Jakarta clearly show that:

1. The Hanoi Vietnamese and their puppets and lackeys do not need Cambodian national reconciliation; the

puppet regime in Phnom Penh, traitor and lackey of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors, still monopolizes power in Cambodia.

2. The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys do not need UN supervision in Cambodia because all kinds of Vietnamese aggressor forces, hidden by the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors inside Cambodian territory, are still there.

3. If there are elections in Cambodia, they will be organized by the puppet regime, Vietnam's lackey; the United Nations will not be allowed to supervise anything in Cambodia. This further clearly shows that the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and puppets Hun Sen and Heng Samrin, traitors and lackeys of the Vietnamese aggressors, have not changed their longstanding intransigent stance. They still persist in their demand to maintain the puppet regime, lackey of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors. The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets act this way so that the Hanoi Vietnamese can continue to hide all kinds of their aggressor forces in Cambodia to continue committing aggression and occupying the country by using the puppets and lackeys of the Hanoi Vietnamese as a smokescreen.

Politicians and diplomats all over the world have come to fully appreciate the tricky nature and devilish and war-mongering schemes of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys. People have clearly seen that the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and puppets and lackeys have not the slightest goodwill to solve and end their war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia of the past more than 11 years. They still stubbornly continue to hide aggressor forces to prolong the war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia with the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors using as cover the Vietnam-installed puppet and traitorous Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime, Vietnam's lackey.

Commentary Says SRV Troops Still Involved

BK2602021490 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Station commentary: "Vietnamese aggressor forces are still fully in charge of defending Route 10 and Battambang"]

[Text] On 7 February, during attacks against Vietnamese positions at Kamping Puoy, Ta Hen, and O Pong Moan, our national resistance forces captured nine Vietnamese soldiers, including a lieutenant named (Nguyen Van Tang). The capture of these Vietnamese soldiers is clear proof that all Vietnamese troops have not been withdrawn from Cambodia. Vietnamese Lieutenant (Nguyen Van Tang) told our national resistance forces that Vietnam's 330th and 309th Divisions—previously stationed in Pailin, Samlot, and Route 10, and which were withdrawn to take part in the parade for reporters to see at the end of September—returned to defend Route 10 and Battambang in November 1989. (Nguyen Van Tang) also said there are now only Vietnamese troops opposing our national resistance forces on Route 10 and in Battambang.

Furthermore, compatriot Cambodian soldiers in the 196th Division, who defected to our national resistance forces, reported to us that the 196th Division, which was basically smashed and scattered by our national resistance forces in Pailin town and reorganized by the Vietnamese enemy and puppet leaders using a special Vietnamese independent division with 200 Vietnamese soldiers as core, has now been scattered for the second time. Specifically, since our national resistance forces' attacks against the Vietnamese enemy and puppets in Kamping Puoy, Ta Hen, and Ta Kream along Route 10 since 28 January—which killed or wounded many Vietnamese and puppet troops, including the deputy commander of the 196th Division named (Meas Pitu) and the chief of staff of Battambang Province named (Sin Tok)—the remaining Cambodian soldiers have been deserting daily in groups of 10 or 20. Now there are no more Cambodian soldiers in the 196th Division; only a special unit of 100 Vietnamese soldiers remains. Vietnam has dispatched 600 Vietnamese soldiers to be included into this 196th Division. Thus, the 196th Division is a puppet division by name, but the fighting troops are all Vietnamese. Compatriot Cambodian soldiers said the puppet 4th Division stationed at Treng is similar to the 196th Division in that by name it is a puppet unit while the troops are all Vietnamese. Therefore, Vietnamese aggressor forces continue to directly wage war in Cambodia, like during the time they invaded Cambodia in 1978-1979. This is why the Hanoi Vietnamese and their puppets and lackeys have rejected effective UN supervision and the dissolution of the puppet regime. If Vietnam agrees to effective UN supervision of the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and agrees to the dissolution of the puppet regime, the Vietnamese enemy can neither hide their forces in Cambodia nor bring in fresh Vietnamese troops.

Thus a solution to the Cambodian problem is deadlocked because Vietnam has refused to genuinely end its war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia. Vietnam persists in annexing Cambodia and including it into Vietnam's Indochinese federation. This is the obstacle to a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

600 SRV Troops Reported Brought to Pursat

BK2402011990 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] On 12 February, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors brought 20 truck-loads of fresh Vietnamese troops, 600 soldiers, from Vietnam to Cambodia. These troops were in the puppet soldiers' uniforms and were brought in along National Route 2, through Phnom

Penh, along National Route 5 through Kompong Chhnang and Pursat provincial towns, and then along Route 56 to Leach district seat [Pursat Province].

SRV Regiment Reported Routed in Battambang

BK2402010190 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] On 19 February, the Vietnamese enemy and puppets gathered a regiment of their forces, backed by three T-54 tanks and various types of artillery pieces, in an attempt to oppose us at Pring Kaong and Smach villages along Route 6 in Phnum Srok District [Battambang Province] on north Sisophon battlefield. However, they were ambushed and routed by our Cambodian national resistance forces. We killed 25 enemy soldiers, including two regimental officers, and wounded 53 others; another 25 were taken prisoner. We destroyed a T-54 tank, a DK-82 gun, two RPD's, a 12.7-mm gun, and eight AK's, and we seized two B-40's, two RPD's, two M-79's, two AK's, a pistol, and various types of ammunition and war material.

VOK on Situation Around Svay Chek Position

BK2502062890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Some reports have affirmed that combatants of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] have decided to withdraw from a number of positions in Svay Chek and instead surround the enemy. However, the VOK newsroom has not received any reports confirming [words indistinct] the situation in that area. Military analysts said although Vietnamese-Heng Samrin troops used large-scale forces to attack the KPNLF troops [passage indistinct] the geographical and strategic position of Svay Chek position will not allow the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin troops to occupy this position for a long period of time.

Various reports said Vietnam and Heng Samrin troops have gathered forces from everywhere to launch the attack against Svay Chek when preparations are under way for the Jakarta meeting next Monday [26 February]. Another report said the KPNLF troops have captured a Vietnamese tank and five Hanoi Vietnamese soldiers. There is no report yet to confirm this from the KPNLF command. A foreign diplomat said that if this is true, it would be a great shame for the Hanoi Vietnamese Government, which has affirmed that it has withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia.

Indonesia

Alatas Hails Japan's LDP Win; Signs EC Grant

BK1902102890 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0917 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 19 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia welcomes the victory of the Liberal Democrat Party (LDP) of Japan in the Sunday [18 February] general elections, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here on Monday. Talking to the press after signing a grant agreement of the Europe Community for the rural electrification programme in Indonesia, Alatas said the LDP victory will hopefully leave Japan's foreign policy generally unchanged, particularly toward Indonesia and other ASEAN countries.

"I welcome the LDP's victory and hope that relations between Indonesia and Japan can be stepped up in the future, while the policies made over the years will remain unchanged and continued consistently," Alatas said.

According to the Japanese news agency KYODO, Monday, the ruling LD party retained its majority in the lower house with 512 members in the general elections held on Sunday. The LDP's present win will assure Japanese Prime Minister Toshiko Kaifu of his position, so that he can continue to lead his cabinet for the second term. Various members of the European Economic Community also hailed the LDP's victory with the hope of further good relations between them.

Commentary Previews Informal Meeting in Jakarta

BK2602030490 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] As Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has repeatedly stressed, the coming informal meeting on Cambodia remains in the framework of the Paris international conference with a view to seeking a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem. As cochairmen of the Paris international conference, Indonesia and France have initiated the coming Jakarta meeting. The two countries will also act as cochairmen in the meeting aimed at finding a breakthrough in the deadlocked Cambodian problem.

The format and procedure of the coming Jakarta meeting will be based on the Paris international conference, while its participants will include the three resistance factions grouped in the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, now called the National Cambodian Government; the Cambodian state headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen; Vietnam; Laos; the six ASEAN countries; France; Australia; and a representative of the UN secretary general.

This informal meeting on Cambodia is held after the emergence of the new situation, especially after Australia presented its proposal for the establishing of an interim government in Cambodia under the auspices of the United Nations until a government is formed through general elections.

If we look at the reasons leading to the deadlocked Paris conference, we see that there are five major issues which obstruct the settlement of the Cambodian problem. Even though the warring factions have in principle reached an

agreement on the five issues, they still have sharp differences on various detailed aspects of the issues. The five issues are ceasefire procedures, a mechanism of international supervision, the establishment of a provisional Cambodian government, prevention of the return of the Pol Pot regime, and the settlement of Vietnamese people in Cambodia. Out of the five issues, the key lies with the establishment of a provisional government in Cambodia as a transitional government until a government is formed through general elections.

The positive response given by the warring Cambodian factions and other parties involved in the Cambodian conflict toward the Australian proposal has given rise to a new momentum to find a breakthrough in the deadlocked Cambodian problem. If the coming informal meeting can make any progress, it will serve as groundwork for holding a formal meeting in Paris. However, if the meeting fails to make any progress, it will be difficult to predict when the Cambodian conflict—which has claimed innumerable lives of innocent people for more than 11 years—will end. It is the duty of the leaders of the Cambodian factions to do their best to end the suffering of their people by simply adopting an attitude that pays more attention to their people's interests rather than those of their own faction. Only by adopting such an attitude can any progress be made in the coming talks.

Progress in talks can also be made if other parties involved in the Cambodian conflict, especially those who give direct support to the warring factions, show their sincerity to help end the protracted conflict.

Murdiono Says No Winner for Phone System Bid

BK2602115190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1028 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Indonesian Government Monday [26 February] decided to hold a new tender on a limited basis for the Indonesian Digital Telephone System (STDI) II because not one among the original participants have come out as the winner.

This decision was decided directly by President Suharto, and was announced to the press by the Minister/State Secretary Murdiono after he was received by the head of state in the company of the coordinating minister of economy, finance, and industry, Radius Prawiro, Minister of State for the National Development Planning Board (BAPPENAS) Saleh Affif, Minister for Post and Telecommunications Susilo Sudarman, and Minister for Research and Technology B.J. Habibie at Jalan Cendana [presidential palace], Jakarta.

According to Murdiono, the head of state made the decision after careful scrutiny of the five participants shortlisted in the tender. They were Alcatel, AT&T, Ericsson, Fujitsu, and NEC. He said not all of the five participants could fulfill the conditions mentioned in the presidential instruction on the tender of 1984.

As to costs, not all participants could comply with the requirements set down in the tender document. For instance, detailed prices of the components must be mentioned in the offer, but this was not done by the five participants, Murdiono said. This was clearly against the conditions of the presidential instruction, he added.

Based on those requirements President Suharto did not consider the five participants as fully qualified to fulfill the conditions set down in the documents, especially as those set down in the presidential instruction of 1984, Murdiono said. According to Murdiono this decision is the best the president could have made to hold a new tender because it was in the interest of the nation.

The decision took into consideration various factors, regulations, laws, and policies prevailing in Indonesia. Seen from all aspects, this is the best possible decision, Murdiono said.

When asked about the term "limited" used in the new tender which would be held soon, Murdiono replied that he could not elaborate, but his explanation was "limited".

When asked whether a company other than those five participants could make bid in the tender, Murdiono replied that the tender was limited. Postponement of the tender did not affect the STDI project which would be implemented on time.

Asked whether the tender would be held within this year, Murdiono replied that next year would be too late.

Information Minister Inaugurates New TV Units

BK2102094290 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 15 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Information Minister Harmoko yesterday inaugurated five new transmission units of the state-owned television network (TVRI) in East Nusatenggara (NTT).

The transmission units were in Soe, Pulau Rote, Pulau Sawu, Waingapu, and Pulau Lomblen.

Construction work on the five transmission units was started under a crash program in 1987.

With the official opening of the five new units, NTT now has 16 TVRI transmission units capable of covering 18,260 square kilometers or about 39 percent of the entire provincial territory.

Under the ministry's budget for 1989-90, rehabilitation of TV and radio broadcasting studios will also be undertaken.

The rehabilitation of Radio Republic of Indonesia's (RRI) studio equipment in Kupang would be undertaken in the immediate future, with a soft loan granted by the Japanese Government, the ministry announced.

Rehabilitation of the RRI station building in Kupang and construction of a new transmission unit at Labuhan Bajo, West Flores is scheduled in its proposed 1990-91 budget.

With another soft loan from the Japanese Government, the 1 KW [kilowatt] and 5 kilowatt RRI radio transmitters and the TVRI transmission unit in Oben is scheduled to be replaced with new transmitters and equipment in 1992.

Philippines

Aquino Says Joint Use of Bases Not Ruled Out

HK2402082690 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 24 Feb 90 p 9

[By staff members Marites Paez and Johanna Son]

[Text] President Aquino has said the Philippines may opt for a joint use with the U.S. of the American bases here if the Government decides to have alternative use of these facilities when the agreement expires in 1991.

It "could very likely be one of the options open to use insofar as alternative use of the bases is concerned," Mrs Aquino told a select group of foreign correspondents in an exclusive interview last Thursday.

THE CHRONICLE obtained from a Malacanang source a copy of the transcript of the interview which marked the President's first public pronouncement regarding the Government's stand on the issue.

In a related development, Sen. Joseph Estrada castigated Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos for "undercutting" the country's position on the bases and challenged him to disclose all other "promises" he had given to U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney.

In a privilege speech delivered in Filipino, Estrada scolded Ramos for making "irresponsible and unwarranted" statements about his proposal for a joint use of the bases which President Aquino said was not the official Philippine stand.

"Tayo na mismo and nagasabi ng mga panukala na dapat nagmula sa kanilang panig," [We ourselves are presenting proposals that should be coming from their side.] Estrada said.

In his talk with Cheney last Monday, Ramos proposed the joint use, a suggestion which was initially made by Admiral Huntington Hardisty, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific forces, during his visit here last year.

At the Subic Naval base, meanwhile, Ramos defended his proposal, saying that this would prepare local forces for the eventual pullout of the American military here.

Ramos spoke during the 11th aniversary of the Subic Naval Command.

He said the military should take advantage of the opportunity to gain proper skills and technical training in operating and maintaining the U.S. facilities and equipment.

He insisted that his proposal did not aim to prolong the U.S. presence here but to enhance the skills of the Armed Forces "in line with upgrading the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippiness] capabilities and the eventual modernization of the entire force."

In last Thursday's interview, Mrs Aquino told foreign correspondents that Ramos' proposal did not reflect the government's stand on the future of the facilities after the expiration of agreement on Sept. 16, 1991.

Marcos Supporters Mount 'Media Blitz' in U.S.

HK2602125190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 Feb 90 pp 1, 6

[By Nimfa U. Rueda]

[Text] Supporters of the late President Marcos have launched a media blitz in the United States to discredit the administration of President Aquino, U.S.-based Philippine diplomatic officials have reported.

The campaign has intensified as the March 20 arraignment of Mrs. Imelda Marcos on racketeering charges draws near, according to a report submitted to the Foreign Information Council [FIC].

"There are palpable signs of increased use of Fil-Am [Filipino-American] media by the Marcoses and loyalists," the report said. It was signed by FIC representative Gil Roy D. Gorre and Pedro Chan, acting principal officer of the Philippine consulate general in Los Angeles.

Chan and Gorre said relatives and close associates of the former strongman had gained control of several Filipino publications in the U.S.

Among the anti-government publications cited in the report were the FILIPINO EXPRESS in New York, TALIBA-USA in Southern California and the PHIL-AM FREE PRESS in Los Angeles.

Other newspapers which have published articles critical of the government are the PHILIPPINE CHRONICLE-USA, BALITA TODAY [NEWS TODAY], WEEKLY HERALD and THE FILIPINO PRESS.

The report said Los Angeles, where most of the Filipino newspapers are published, "is becoming a hotbed of anti-government sentiment, at least in terms of media projection."

It said Imelda and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. have been making frequent public appearances "to give the U.S. public the perception that the Marcoses have widespread support within the nearly two million-strong, Filipino-American community."

"This Filipinos-love-Marcos theme could be replayed like a circus act around major Filipino communities as Imelda is en route to her March arraignment" before a New York district court, the report said.

But Chan and Gorre said the consulate was "keeping up efforts" to persuade Filipino community leaders to express outrage over the campaign.

Imelda was indicted with her husband last year on a charge that they embezzled more than $100 million from the Philippine treasury to buy expensive art objects and New York City real estate. They were also charged with defrauding banks of $165 million in loans.

Marcos died in September last year. Imelda is free on bail of $5 million put up by her friend, tobacco heiress Doris Duke.

The trial was scheduled to start on March 13, but U.S. District Judge John Keenan delayed it for a week to give Imelda's counsel more time to prepare his case.

In another development, businessman Eduardo Cojungco, a close associate of Marcos, has hired a U.S.-based public relations firm to build up his image in the U.S.

Documents gathered by Malacanang showed Ms. Aquino's estranged cousin had retained the firm of Chwat/Weigend Associates for $5,150 per month, exclusive of other expenses.

The firm has filed a registration paper with the U.S. Department of Justice identifying Cojuangco as having engaged their services for "public relation activites, (such as) monitoring any media coverage of the principal (Cojuangco) in the U.S. and the Philippines; dissemination of press releases, statements and information on the principal to U.S. media, government and non-governmental individuals and representing the interests of the principal in the U.S."

U.S. law requires lobbyists and public relations firms to declare their foreign clients.

Aquino Orders Counterpropaganda

HK2602093390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Report by Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has ordered four government agencies to counter the negative propaganda being launched in the United States against her administration. In her regular mini-press conference, the president said it is vital to correct reports that are being published in the United States regarding the Philippines:

[Begin Aquino recording in English] Well, it is, of course, very important that we are able to project the side of this government, and so already ongoing is the strengthening of the Foreign Information Office. This is done in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Press Secretary, and also the Department of Tourism will also be involved here. So, a further strengthening of this particular committee will see to it that the side of government will be properly projected, especially in the international press. [end recording]

The president's directive came following the discovery of a plan by Marcos' close allies to launch an intensive campaign to discredit the Aquino government in the United States.

Aquino 'Sure' of Continued U.S. Support

HK2702024590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Feb 90 p 3

[By staff members Lito Zulueta and Chay Florentino]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday doubted whether the U.S. would support a military junta just to ensure the stay of its military bases here.

"I believe the American Government strongly supports this Administration and certainly they have commented on this not once but many items," Mrs Aquino told a press conference.

"They are also for democratic processes and I'm sure they will not defend any of the enemies of democracy," she added.

The President, however, would not say what form of support the U.S. would give her if another coup attempt is launched. "There are many ifs in this case so let us not discuss it," she said. "We should devote our time instead to prevent another coup attempt."

During the press conferences, Mrs Aquino also:

—Dismissed a U.S. diplomatic report quoting Marvin Ott, an American intelligence official, that Filipino leaders had shifted their stand to support fully the retention of the bases.

—Admitted having sent a letter to Defense Secretary Richard Cheney through a third party to assuage the presidential snub during his visit here last week.

Mrs Aquino reiterated the Government would decide the bases issue in the best interest of the nation.

"We will work for what we believe to be the national interest and what will serve the interest of the great number of our people, especially the poor," she said.

At the same time, the President said Ott's reported view was based on the impression he got when he visited the Philippines last month.

Ott's view contrasted with that of Cheney who expressed fear on the prospects of the continued stay of the bases because "it is difficult to find elected leaders who are willing to stand up publicly and embrace the continuation of the present agreement."

Acting Foreign Secretary Manuel Yan also disputed Ott's observation, saying the Philippines has not changed its stand on the bases issue.

He also downplayed the report quoting Ott and described him as having "merely tagged along with somebody" when he visited the Philippines.

Yan could be referring to a U.S. Senate delegation which visited the country last month, including Richard Kessler of the foreign relations committee.

Ott, according to Yan, was a "mere staff member" of a U.S. Senate intelligence committee.

In Malacanang, the President admitted having written Cheney to express her appreciation for his warm reception when she visited Washington last November.

"I have nothing personal against him," Mrs Aquino said. She refused to meet with Cheney when he was here last week, saying the American press had grossly misreported her earlier meetings with other U.S. officials.

Malacanang had told the CHRONICLE that the snub was meant to send signals to Washington of the President's displeasure over cuts in U.S. assistance and failure to meet its commitments under the 1988 Manglapus-Shultz agreement.

Sources also said Mrs Aquino had agonized over her decision since she had a good impression of Cheney when they met during her state visit to the U.S.

Ott was quoted by the report as saying that in his talk with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, there was a hint of the need to retain the bases here.

But before he left for Indonesia, Manglapus said he had informed his visitors "uniformly about steps the Philippine Government has decided to undertake in relation to the U.S. facilities."

The Government, Manglapus said, will only decide to undertake formal negotiations on a new treaty after the completion of the exploratory talks.

He added he must have been misinterpreted by Ott when he said the Philippines could choose to enter into formal negotiations for a new treaty after the exploratory talks.

Ramos Reports U.S. To Help Monitor Rebel Aid

HK2402083290 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 24 Feb 90 p 1

[By staff member Manny Mogato]

[Text] The American Government has agreed to help the country monitor financial and material assistance to local communist rebels coming from U.S. and Canadian sources, Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said.

In a report to President Aquino on his meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, Ramos said he was assured the U.S. would inform the Government of the groups supporting the local rebels and move to stop the flow of assistance. The U.S. gesture was seen as a move to justify its continued presence in the country.

Ramos also told Mrs Aquino the U.S. was maintaining a similar defense posture because of the existing political situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Americans are apparently waiting for some dramatic changes in the region similar to Eastern Europe before they change their security strategies in the region. Cheney had expressed doubts over Vietnamese troops leaving Cambodia because of persistent reports that Vietnam had not completed the pullout.

The Americans are also expecting leadership changes in China, but are cautious because they are still unsure about the policies the new leaders would take.

At the same time, the U.S. is worried about the continued buildup of North Korean forces as well as Soviet forces in the Indochinese peninsula.

Despite Soviet assistance cuts in Vietnam, the Americans said there were indications the Soviets were still constructing ammunition storage and ship handling facilities in Cam Ranh Bay.

A senior officer, who attended Monday's Ramos-Cheney meeting in Camp Aguinaldo said the U.S. was not prepared to lower its guard in the region given its unstable condition.

He added the Americans were quite concerned over the financial and material support from abroad falling into the hands of local communist rebels.

Talks To Tackle Conflicts on Bases Expiry Date

HK2702040390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Feb 90 p 1

[By staff member Cristina Pastor]

[Text] A key member of the government bases panel said yesterday the Philippines' and the U.S.' conflicting positions on the agreement's expiry date would be in the agenda of the exploratory talks scheduled for April.

Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis told the 'Kapihan' [coffee] forum at the Manila Hotel he believed the matter would be taken up when the two panels meet to discuss the fate of bases after their leases end in 1991.

"Yes, I would imagine that to be (in the agenda)," he replied to opposition leader Blas Ople's question as to how the two governments would reconcile their varying positions on the expiry date.

Gacis, a retired Army general, is considered an influential member of the five-man negotiating panel having served as defense adviser to the Government in previous negotiations with the U.S. since 1979.

Ople said he could foresee a contentious debate on the expiry date alone with the Philippine Constitution mandating an end to foreign facilities by 1991, and the U.S. interpreting the Ramos-Rusk agreement to mean the bases pact would lapse by 1992.

The 1966 Ramos-Rusk agreement, which cut short the bases' term from 99 to 25 years, states: "Unless terminated earlier by mutual agreements of the two governments, this agreement ... shall remain in force for a period of 25 years from Sept. 16, 1966 after which, unless extended for a longer period by mutual agreement, it shall become subject to termination upon one year's notice by either government."

Ople also said the events in Eastern Europe had considerably altered the "security configuration" in the region. The communist regimes' opening up to different political ideologies was an indication, according to him, that the Soviet Union has ceased to be an enemy of the U.S.

It may come to a point, that the Philippines would have to "rely more completely on our own sagacity and diplomacy" to protect itself, and Philippine policy thinkers might be at a loss in dealing with a self-reliant defense posture in the future.

Enrile Calls for End to U.S. Security Ties

HK2602032190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 90 p 1

[By Staff Writer Juliu Fortuna]

[Text] Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said the Philippines should break its security ties with Washington, citing as reasons Soviet reduction of forces and the end of the Cold War.

"Considering what's happening in the world—glasnost, perestroyka—reduction of forces, why burden ourselves with artificial military agreements?" Enrile asked.

Talking to a number of newsmen Friday, Enrile argued for the scrapping of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty, a four-decade-old agreement that binds both countries to help each other in war.

"There's nothing that can convince me that we have an enemy, for which we need a military alliance with a superpower like America," Enrile said.

The Philippines, Enrile said, does not face any external threats from the superpowers and its Asian neighbors for the next 20 years.

Enrile's statements came as U.S. officials acknowledged that relations between Washington and Manila were experiencing difficulties because of opposing views on the future of U.S. installations in the country.

Both governments are scheduled to discuss in mid-April the future of the bases which the Americans claim serves the mutual security needs of the two countries.

But Enrile, who as former defense minister for more than 15 years, served as bases' negotiator, said that unlike countries in NATO and South Korea, the Philippines does not face any threat from its neighbors.

"We are more like Thailand," he said, in reference to its Southeast Asian neighbor which has allowed no bases in its territory. "But even Thailand has a potential enemy," he said, citing Vietnam as potential enemy.

Enrile doubts that the military alliance with the U.S. can counter the so-called Soviet threat, adding that American presence has even increased the possibility of that threat.

Renewing an old criticism against the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), Enrile said the 39-year-old agreement does not provide guarantees that the U.S. will help Manila in the latter's claim in the South China Sea.

He recalled that in a letter of the U.S. president to former President Marcos, U.S. defense commitments to the Philippines does not cover Manila's dispute with other countries in the South China Sea.

U.S. officials argued that U.S. obligation to the Philippines includes only RP territories covered by the Treaty of Paris and the Treaty of London, Enrile said.

The Americans, Enrile said, have interpreted both treaties as not including the Kalayaan Group in the South China Sea as not included in Philippine territory.

Enrile Formally Charged With Rebellion, Murder

HK2702093590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Rebellion with murder charges were formally filed against opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court at 1400 today. Another charge of harboring and concealing a criminal was filed before the Makati Regional Trial Court at the same time. The first two charges against Senator Enrile come from accusations by the Justice Department that the senator played an active role in the abortive coup d'etat last December, while the third charge stems from the alleged presence of renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan at a party in the house of the senator on 1 December 1989.

The rebellion with murder charge is a capital offense that is also nonbailable, unless the evidence against the accused is weak. As for the charge of harboring and concealing a fugitive, which is also a violation of the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1829, bail of 50,000 pesos is recommended in exchange for the temporary release of the senator.

The rebellion with murder charge is presented before Judge Jaime Salazar of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, Branch 103.

Meanwhile, even Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo has been charged with rebellion before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, along with Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bibit and retired Brigadier General Felix Brawner.

In an interview with Judge Maximiano Asuncion by Deo Macalma, the judge admitted handling the case of Bibit. The case of Governor Aguinaldo rests with Judge Velasco, while that of Brawner is with Judge Salazar.

In a related development, President Aquino asserted that the rights of Senator Juan Ponce Enrile will be respected. Details from Dick Sinchongco.

[Begin recording] [Sinchongco] President Cory Aquino assured that the rights of opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile related to the criminal charges filed against him will be respected. In a press statement read for her by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III, the president said the administration will abide by whatever decision is taken by the court. At the same time, Malacanang denied that the move was part of a vindictive action against the former martial law administrator and defense minister.

[Gomez, in English] I say straight that one can never be perceived vindictive against one who is perceived as having committed very much a crime of a crime.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Gomez, in English] No, I am not saying that, but it is for the justice to say. But in response to the rhetoric of being vindictive, I am saying that you can never be more vindictive to someone who is perceived to have repeatedly abused this country with attempted coup d'etats. Drilon has nothing to do with it. The president of the Philippines has nothing to do with it. The Cabinet has nothing to do with it.

[Sinchongco] Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon informed the president of the filing of charges against Enrile and three others at the end of a special cabinet meeting at Malacanang. [end recording]

Enrile Makes Statement

HK2702100390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Senator Juan Ponce Enrile in a news conference said he has not received the arrest warrent issued for him in relation to rebellion with murder charges filed by the government against him. The senator said he is prepared

to submit himself to the hands of the law, but when asked if he would get a fair trial, this is what he said:

[Begin recording in English] [Reporter] Do you think you will get a fair trial?

[Enrile] Well, I really do not know whether I will get a fair trial. I pray that I will be given a fair trial. But whether I would be accorded a fair trial, all I can say is that all of us who are playing roles in our present political life in our republic, will have to answer to God and history regarding what we have done during our time. And I know that those who are accusing me today will surely have their day, as my day has come.

I think that it has always been luck to contend with an unjust situation. All my life I have been fighting for what I consider to be a just blow of dealing with fellow human beings.

This happened to me in my youth. This happened to me when I was in the government of President Marcos, and now it is happening to me again.

So, I leave it to the future, whatever that future will spell out for me. I'm confident though that as a lawyer, having been involved in the practice of law for a long, long time, that the judicial system of our republic will exercise their independence, an independent judgement to give a citizen, never mind about the senator of the republic, just an ordinary citizen such as I am, for that is how I feel myself today, at this moment, a measure of fairness in the resolution of an indictment that all of us know, especially myself and my accusers, to be the product of inventions and fabrications. [end recording]

Press Secretary Interviewed

HK2802125190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Live interview with Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III by Radio Veritas anchorman Henry Umaga Diaz—slantlines denote passages in English]

[Text] [Diaz] Good afternoon, Secretary.

[Gomez] Good afternoon.

[Diaz] First of all, we should like to know why the government, through the Department of Justice, decided to file rebellion charges against Secretary Enrile?

[Gomez] The case has been under study for a very long time. A decision was made a long time ago after a preliminary investigation. /And the studies of the Chief State Prosecutor's Office has been finished—as you know, this is an initiative of theirs—and they decided not to wait for time any more for, after all, the papers are complete. So they decided to file it already. I understand the papers were filed in Quezon City at 1100 this morning./ And during the cabinet meeting, /at 1120, 20 minutes after it was filed, that was the time when Secretary Drilon reported the action that was taken. And practically to a man—as a matter of fact, to a man—11 members of the cabinet were one in saying that it is about time. What we are witnessing, Henry, what we are witnessing today is the very simple operation of our system of justice under a constitutional democracy. A crime was committed. The criminals were identified, and therefore it behooves the judicial system for the charges to be filed. After all, the accused are guaranteed their human rights. This is all being done under the rule of law and due process is being followed./

[Diaz] According to Secretary Drilon's report, is there sufficient or strong evidence against Enrile?

[Gomez] That is our understanding this morning. /I don't think they will risk filing something without the proper evidence./

[Diaz] Senator Enrile hinted that the case has something to do with personal grievance.

[Gomez] /I don't think that is the case. It has nothing to do with personalities here. It could have been somebody else. The fact is there is probable cause to file the charges against Enrile's complicity in the crime of rebellion complexed with murder and frustrated murder. So there is nothing personal here. As a matter of fact,/ if I am not mistaken, /whereas the president knew about the preliminary investigation going on, it was only this morning that the president was informed that the case has already been filed./

[Diaz] Does the filing of the case have the blessing...

[Gomez] /In our system of justice, there is no need for presidential blessings, or, for that matter, even the secretary of justice does not need to give blessings to the state prosecutor to proceed with charges when the state prosecutors have already found probable cause./

[Diaz] One concern is the arrest warrant against Enrile...

[Gomez] We heard that he has been arrested.

[Diaz] He has been arrested?

[Gomez] Yes, a few minutes ago.

[Diaz] Does Malacanang feel any tension in this matter?

[Gomez] /I have not noticed anything./ It is business as usual for us here. As you know, we work like troops as there is a lot of work. /So, it is business as usual as far as we are concerned. Besides, let us leave the wheels of justice, due process to take its course./ After all, our judicial system is efficient. He will not be cheated. /If they are really guilty, then they will be sent to prison. If not,/ they will be absolved.

[Diaz] Thank you, Secretary Gomez.

[Gomez] /Thank you for calling./

Statement by Justice Secretary

HK2702095390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Statement by Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon from the Department of Justice—in English—broadcast in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] ...before the regional trial court in Makati. The Department of Justice composite team, after full investigation, discerning that on the basis of the evidence presented, there exists a probable cause to warrant the filing of criminal cases of rebellion with murder and frustrated murder. No bail was recommended by the composite team of prosecutors.

The proceedings against Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and his co-accused are part of our criminal justice system. During the investigation conducted, the defendants were fully accorded their rights under the law. Their rights will be protected under a democratic system of government. We will let the law take its course. We hope that politics will not muddle the judgment of the composite team of prosecutors, that sufficient evidence was submitted to establish probable cause that the crime was in fact committed to warrant the filing of the information in court.

Defense Secretary Ramos Comments

HK2702113590 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Report by Jessica Soho from "GMA News" program]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos called a news conference this afternoon to answer questions related to the filing of rebellion charges against Enrile. According to Ramos, this government action is an outcome of constitutional and legal processes. He added that the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] is prepared to cope with whatever consequences may arise.

[Begin Ramos recording in English] The government hopes that the peaceful nature of all of these will be recognized and respected, since no one is above the law. Now if there are any who are contemplating violent or illegal actions, as I say, the AFP is prepared for any contingencies. [end recording]

Ramos did not immediately admit that some of the evidence against Enrile could have come from the Defense Department and the Armed Forces. The AFP formed 27 investigation teams to look into the abortive December coup d'etat. Earlier reports quoted the DND [Department of National Defense]-Quisumbing committee as saying that some civilians and politicians supported the rebels. According to Ramos, the name of Enrile was mentioned in those reports.

[Begin Ramos recording in English] Maybe by way of just information as revealed by intelligence reports, but those are not really a part of the Quisumbing report, which is fact-finding in nature and would not accept any intelligence report. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the military will remain under red alert for fear that rightist elements may take action in response to the government's action against Enrile. The president ordered the red-alert status while a cabinet meeting was going on at Malacanang.

Aquino Assures 'Prevailing Peace' in Mindanao

HK2702022390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino said that the recent election in Mindanao was a democratic exercise through which the people expressed their desire for peace in the region. At the same time, she gave an assurance that no group will ever succeed in disrupting the prevailing peace in the region. The president's reaction came following a warning by the Moro National Liberation Front for a possible eruption of violence in Mindanao.

New Air Force Chief Takes Over Command

HK2402092190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Gerardo Protacio today took over the helm of the Philippine Air Force, replacing retiring Major General Jose de Leon Jr in a formal turnover ceremony at the Villamor Air Base. General de Leon, scheduled to retire on April, will leave for the United States for medical treatment. [passage omitted]

Also present at the ceremony were Armed Forces chief of staff General Renato de Villa, some congressmen and a few foreign military attaches.

Thailand

U.S. Said Satisfied With Labor Rights Efforts

BK2702035390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 90 p 26

[Text] A number of US agencies are reported to be satisfied with efforts to improve alleged labour abuse in Thailand and may fight attempts to revoke the generalised system of preferences (GSP) on Thai products.

Foreign Trade Department Deputy Director-General Kroekkrai Chiraphaet quoted a report from an American law office hired to monitor the issue as saying several US agencies, including the Departments of Commerce, Labour and State and the Office of the US Trade Representatives [USTR], were satisfied with developments on the issue.

The American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFLCIO) submitted a petition last June urging Washington to revoke the GSP status on all Thai products because Thailand had "seriously and continuously" violated the acceptable rights of labourers.

"Those (US) agencies which were very strict about labour abuse share a positive view of Thailand and its attempts to try and revise its laws related to labour," the American law office was quoted as saying.

Mr Kroekkrai said this could be seen from the passage of almost 10 laws late last year, including the latest announcement by the Interior Ministry increasing the minimum employment age from 12 to 13 years, and increasing health benefits to workers.

He also said the Thai Government had submitted a letter to Washington through the US Embassy informing it of the developments.

President George Bush is expected to make a decision in April based on recommendations from the USTR.

In a related development, a source said Washington was expected to remove the GSP status on two Thai products, Christmas tree lighting sets and sweet corn (prepared or preserved), under Customs Tariff Nos. 9405300 and 20058000 respectively, from July onwards.

The source said the anticipated removal as part of the US's annual review of GSP granted to developing countries was based on the grounds that exports of these products had increased sharply last year.

Thailand exported about $64.621 million worth of lighting sets (representing a 28.5 percent market share of imported products) during the first nine months last year, and $6.314 million worth of sweet corn accounting for a 77.9 percent market share.

The duties on these two products are 8 percent and 12.5 percent respectively.

The source said Thailand was expected to ask the US for a waiver of the revocation on sweet corn.

It was earlier expected that another two products, insulated ignition wiring harnesses and magnetic video tape recordings (Customs Tariff Nos. 85443000 and 85211000 respectively) would also be deprived of their GSP status.

The export value of these two items totalled $67.301 million and $66.516 million last year, or well below the ceiling set by the US, so they can still qualify for GSP status, he said.

Government To Ask U.S. To Cut Rice Planting

BK1902044290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Feb 90 pp 17, 28

[By Ratchaphon Laowanit]

[Text] The Government hopes to convince the United States to reduce its rice plantation area under its new five-year food security provisions now being drafted.

The new provisions will replace the Farm Security Act, better known as the Farm Act, which is due to expire this year.

Foreign Trade Department Director-General Oranut Osathanon said the Government would submit its request to the Bush Administration for consideration.

The decision to seek a reduction in the United States' rice plantation area follows a meeting of the joint working group to study the new US food security provisions draft at the weekend.

Mrs Oranut quoted a report from an American lobbyist and consultant company, Heron Berchette Ruckert and Rothwell, as saying the new draft would call for a reduction in the area under rice and this might benefit Thailand.

She said the meeting was concerned about the method used in calculating the rice plantation area in the US and whether this would really lead to a reduction in the plantation area.

She said the draft law required the US Department of Agriculture to allow farmers to switch to growing other crops while still qualifying for cheap credits and other benefits from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

She said the plantation area under the Acreage Reduction Programme (ARP) would depend on the amount of rice stocks kept by the CCC and exports by the US. Past plantation cutbacks were announced on an annual basis by the US agriculture secretary.

Mrs. Oranut quoted the report as saying the draft act calls for the CCC to hold 20 percent of the previous year's domestic rice consumption and exports in stock.

US rice consumption and exports in 1989 totalled 2.5 million tons each so the CCC will keep one million tons in stock for 1990.

She said that if Washington expected exports this year to increase, then it would raise the plantation area to meet the demand while also maintaining the CCC's stocks.

Mrs Oranut said Thailand agreed with the calculation method used in the draft, but it thought the CCC's storage of 20 percent of sales was too high.

It will try therefore to encourage the US to reduce this figure.

Exports of Thai rice were adversely affected in 1985 and 1986 when the US Farm Act went into force as American farmers were heavily subsidised by their Government to the tune of $1,000 million a year.

The US law also distorted world rice market mechanisms.

The US Administration realises its existing programme does not offer benefits and might consider it unwise to continue this plan to support its 11,000 rice farmers.

Mrs Oranut said Thailand would participate in a public hearing to dicuss the provisions in Washington on March 4-5, during which it would try to convince the US to reduce the rice cultivation area.

She said Thailand would also urge the Department of Agriculture to provide more information on how it calculates world prices as well as ask for a reduction in rice exports under the Export Enhancement and Food for Peace programmes, and seek a reduction in the marketing loan programme for rice farmers and the target price for rice so farmers could switch to growing other crops.

Sitthi Congratulates Kaifu; Visits Planned

BK2002023990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday congratulated Japan's Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] on Sunday's [18 February] election victory and announced plans for high-level visits between Thailand and Japan.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said the LDP's success in maintaining its majority control in the powerful lower House proved that the party was still supported by the Japanese people.

At the outset of campaigning, analysts had predicted the scandal-ridden LDP may fail to retain its decades-long grip on power in Sunday's general election. The ruling party suffered a stunning defeat in elections last July for the less powerful upper House.

Sitthi said he had sent congratulations to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

He said Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan is planning to pay an official visit to Japan, which is tentatively scheduled within the next few months.

Prime Minister Kaifu will also visit Thailand later this year, Sitthi told reporters after a meeting with his Italian counterpart, Gianni de Michelis.

Sitthi and Michelis discussed Thai-Italian relations, including ways to increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Michelis left Bangkok for Rome last night.

Chatchai Holds Talks With New SRV Envoy

BK2702142590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Nguyen Trung, new SRV ambassador to Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan at 1530 today. The ambassador told the prime minister that he would use his service to promote ties between the two countries, especially in trade and investment. He praised the prime minister for his efforts in pushing for the meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta.

Prime Minister Chatchai noted that the Cambodian problem is Cambodia's internal affair and should be discussed and settled among the Cambodian factions. He appealed to the powers involved to slow down the supply of weapons to the Cambodian factions.

On the promotion of investment in Vietnam, the prime minister said that Vietnam should build an airport to accommodate large passenger planes, because a modern airport with good facilities will draw investors into the country. He also noted that Vietnam should lift its control on currency exchanges. Foreign investors are not interested in investing in Vietnam because they cannot transfer the money earned out of the country. Chatchai also suggested that Vietnam promote its hotel and canned food industries.

On this occasion, the Vietnamese ambassador extended an invitation to the prime minister to visit Vietnam.

Chawalit Accepts Invitation To Visit Vietnam

BK2702034590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut says he has accepted an invitation to visit Vietnam, but has not yet decided when to go.

The invitation was extended by Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung, who paid a courtesy call on him yesterday.

Gen Chawalit said, however, that the visit may take place soon.

He said the Vietnamese Ambassador told him Vietnam has urged the private sector to have a bigger role in economic development, but its system is different from the Soviet Union's Perestroyka.

Vietnam has been able to reduce inflation from about 400 per cent in 1988 to about 20 per cent, Gen Chawalit quoted the ambassador as saying.

Gen Chawalit said he talked to Nguyen Trung about the situation in Cambodia.

The ambassador praised Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan for arranging a meeting between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Cambodian Premier Hun Sen.

"We tried not to talk about the meeting in Jakarta because it is not suitable to do so while the meeting is still in progress," Gen Chawalit said.

On relations between Thailand and Vietnam, Gen Chawalit said the Thai Government and people never regard Vietnam as an enemy.

"We regard them as a good friend with whom we can talk for peace in the region and Vietnam understands our position," Gen Chawalit said.

Asked to comment on reports that Vietnam had sent troops back into Cambodia, Gen Chawalit said he did not want to comment because the reports could not yet be verified.

Ambassador Trung reiterated Vietnam's stance that it wanted to see Phnom Penh and resistance movements work with the United Nations interim administration in holding free and fair elections.

He told Gen Chawalit that Vietnam views a clean election as the most important issue to be tackled at the Jakarta peace talks, which began yesterday.

SRV Calls for 'Marriage' in Trade Dealings

BK0502124190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Feb 90 p 17

[By Phiphat Loetkittisuk]

[Text] Vietnam has called for a marriage of sorts in its trade dealings with Thailand, stressing that this involves a long-term arrangement based on mutual understanding.

"Major business ties (between Vietnam and Thailand) are expected to involve trade, and I don't think it is necessarily practical to expect too much from just a few discussions," Vietnamese Ministry for External Economic Relations Vice Minister Le Van Triet told BUSINESS POST on the weekend.

"To boost and develop business ties, we should aim for long-term arrangements just as a couple planning to get married must learn each other's ways first over a certain period of time."

Mr Triet's 'marriage proposal' followed earlier comments that a number of trade missions had been exchanged between the two countries in recent years, but none had achieved any quantifiable result.

He said this was not a problem though, as there was no need to be in a hurry.

Mr Triet described 1989 as the start of a new era during which Vietnam and Thailand had shown firm intentions to develop their business relationship through the exchange of trade and investment missions.

He said Vietnam welcomed foreign investment in two major areas in order to improve its economy, infrastructure development and manufacturing development.

Vietnam has made infrastructure development the top priority in its economic development plan.

The plan includes foreign investment for managing certain projects, while, on the manufacturing side, the main attention will be given to food, consumer goods and export production.

Mr Triet said Vietnam had no plans to compete with the ASEAN-member countries in promoting foreign investments.

He said his country believed its development would benefit all neighbouring countries.

"Foreign investment promotion is growing in many countries in this region and we think it is now clear that, once one country's development benefits from this exercise, then so also will its neighbours. Foreign investment can bring mutual benefits for all countries of the region."

Mr Triet said the Vietnamese Government was also showing interest in developing its service industries and this area was mentioned in its foreign investment promotion act.

Foreign investors are already developing a number of projects in this area, including a Thai group developing an integrated tourism business covering hotel accommodation, entertainment and a casino.

Mr Triet was in Bangkok on the weekend to participate in a meeting of the Thai-Vietnamese joint venture, Thaiviet Invexim Ltd.

The joint venture was formed following a visit to Vietnam by various industries late last year under the auspices of the Joint Private Sector Committee.

The joint venture was formed to promote business by both countries.

About 50 Thai companies and 10 Vietnamese state agencies decided to hold shares in two companies, Thaiviet Invexim in Thailand with Thais holding 60 percent of equity and Viethai in Vietnam with the Vietnamese holding a 60 percent share.

The two companies will explore trade and investment opportunities for interested shareholders.

Once development projects begin, the company will be offered a shareholding to be proposed by the development company.

SRV Envoy Aims for Increased Economic Ties

BK1902043890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Feb 90 p 28

[Text] Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Trung said at the weekend he would try to boost his country's trade and investment with Thailand.

The ambassador told Deputy Prime Minister Chuan Likphai during a courtesy call on Government House that there were three methods of increasing economic relations between the two countries.

He said this could be done by boosting cooperation, the solving of double taxation issues and, finally, by enacting measures to guarantee mutual investment.

He said the latter area in particular would provide mutual benefits to both countries.

Mr Chuan welcomed the suggestions and said the two countries would definitely work together in raising trade and investment.

He said Thailand had expertise and technology and had the capacity to invest in other countries such as Vietnam, while Vietnam was rich in natural resources which would benefit the economic development of both countries.

SRV Ambassador Interviewed on Trade Ties

BK2602031590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 90 p 18

["Excerpts" of interview with SRV Ambassador Nguyen Trung by BANGKOK POST editor Phaisan Sicharatchanya "last week"—place not given]

[Text] [Phaisan] Have you set yourself any specific objective or mission during your stay here?

[Nguyen Trung] I would like to help improve or renew the framework of basic bilateral relations between the two countries—to design a completely new framework. We now have to study the existing agreement between Thailand and Vietnam. We currently have an agreement on trade cooperation, plus cooperation in the science and technology fields, but the agreement was signed about 10 years ago and the situation has changed completely. The needs of every country change, including the need to enlarge international cooperation, the need to revise and define the international division of labour, and the need to renew the integration of each economy with the rest of the world.

My own view is that it is better to have a new framework for bilateral relations. We, therefore, have been proposing a new bilateral agreement to cover economic, cultural and technical cooperation between our two countries. This should serve as a general framework. Then, maybe, we can work out other specific agreements like the mutual protection of investment and avoidance of double taxation, plus perhaps some specific agreement on financial matters. We should regulate the exchange rates between the Thai and Vietnamese currencies and organise banking relations between the two countries.

These would facilitate trade and investment.

[Phaisan] Has there been any consideration given to using the Thai baht as part of Vietnam's reserve currencies? (The Cambodian central bank is considering using the baht as a reserve unit.)

[Nguyen Trung] We have not made any official decision on this. The baht is already a convertible currency in Vietnam. Other convertible currencies include the US dollar, French franc, Deutschemark, pound sterling and Japanese yen.

[Phaisan] What currencies are used as Vietnam's reserves?

[Nguyen Trung] Most of our reserves are in US dollars. We also have the Russian ruble. We have the ruble because of our (longstanding) relationship with the Soviet Union. We still lack a system of convertible exchange among the Comecon [CEMA] countries. Therefore, everything has to be regulated on a bilateral basis. But I would like to add that now there is discussion on how to adopt a convertible system. Making the Thai baht a reserve unit is an item or negotiation between Vietnam and Thailand.

[Phaisan] On your proposed new framework of bilateral cooperation, have you started negotiations with the Thai authorities?

[Nguyen Trung] Negotiations were begun during the posting of my predecessor (former ambassador Le Mai). We have prepared a new draft agreement. The Thais are also preparing a proposal. We have proposed the establishment of a joint committee to facilitate cooperation on economic and other matters. Discussions were held during the visit of Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and (former deputy prime minister) Phichai Rattakun to Hanoi. A lot of discussions have already taken place, and what is needed now is to give the matter a push (for speedier progress). Perhaps the best impetus (to conclude the proposed new bilateral agreement on economic cooperation) is for the prime ministers of both countries to exchange visits.

[Phaisan] After the initial flurry of business-related visits to Vietnam, there seems to be a slowdown of interest among the Thai business community as a result of various problems they have encountered. What is the latest situation?

[Nguyen Trung] I don't think interest is slackening. The Thais are still playing an active part among the foreign business community in Vietnam. In the last 27 months (since Vietnam promulgated its foreign investment code), we have issued about 100 licences for foreign investment. These involve a combined investment of about $850 million. Out of this total number, I think about six-10 licences were issued to Thai investors. Investors from Western Europe account for the largest part. There are also other investors from Australia and the Asian NICs [newly industrialized countries]—South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, Singapore only has trade.

Last week, we received an important business delegation from Thailand's Charoen Phokkhaphan (CP) Group. (The mission was led by CP honorary chairman Montri Chiarawanon and executive vice president Thirayut Phitthaya-itsarakun.)

[Phaisan] What investments are undertaken by the Thais?

[Nguyen Trung] Tourism... there are some hotel and tourism-related projects involving transport within Vietnam. A licence was granted recently for gem mining. The CP Group is negotiating investments in food processing, both for Vietnam's domestic consumption and export. The group also wants to invest in other agricultural infrastructure, such as irrigation canals and agricultural-product storage facilities.

(The ambassador had no details on how much of the total $850 million in foreign investment was accounted for by Thai investors.)

[Phaisan] What can Thai businessmen expect from Vietnam?

[Nguyen Trung] If every Thai businessman wants to go to Vietnam to sell or buy something, I think it will be difficult. If you want to sell something, the problem is where do we get the money to pay for it. But if Thai businessmen want to buy something, they will presumably want to buy our raw materials. We also need raw materials for our own labour force. So trade alone does not help much. Therefore, I have proposed that both sides come up with more, longer-term cooperation in the investment fields to expand Vietnam's export capacity so we can buy and sell more. I have suggested to Thai businessmen that they prepare favourable conditions for such longer-term cooperation.

[Phaisan] How do you see the development of bilateral trade and investment?

[Nguyen Trung] First, we want mutual security for business. Several things should be done to achieve this. We should design a policy to help promote bilateral trade. If trade is combined with investment, this could provide an incentive. First of all, we need to build up total mutual trust. I have been asked what is the main obstacle to the development of bilateral trade. I would like to say that we must create mutual trust. This problem is partly related to history.

People have asked me for my advice. I told them the first thing to be thought of was not profit, but rather how to win the trust of the Vietnamese people. This is very important. If you win the trust of the Vietnamese people, you will overcome other difficulties and obstacles. Bureaucratic and procedural matters will be made easier.

Remember that this is the first time in history that Vietnam is opening to the outside world. So to us, everthing is new.

[Phaisan] Do you think Thai businessmen are doing enough to win Vietnamese trust?

[Nguyen Trung] Not enough. We have some very favourable cases, but we also have some cases which are negative. One such example is fishing cooperation. We signed a contract to allow, let's suppose, 10 Thai fishing trawlers to operate in Vietnamese waters. But it later turned out that 100 fishing boats were sent instead. The local authorities could not control it. This adversely affected our efforts. It also makes it difficult for me to convince my government that this may be only an exceptional case. (This particular fishing agreement has now been cancelled and a new agreement is being negotiated.)

[Phaisan] What areas could Thai investment best serve?

[Nguyen Trung] Tourism, food processing, light industries such as textiles, footwear, furniture and, maybe, electrical appliances such as lamps and air-conditioning. Porcelain and ceramics are also possible. On tourism, not only do we lack infrastructure, but we also lack the experience. The service is poor, low-quality.

[Phaisan] Once the US embargo on Vietnam is lifted, your country will likely receive a lot of international aid. How does Vietnam perceive the type of contributions which various world economic groupings—such as the European Community, Japan, Australia and the Asian NICs—could make in its rehabilitation?

[Nguyen Trung] You must first design concepts on how to implement the international division of labour. I don't think it is possible to ask foreign investors to invest in this and that. The investors will only do so if it is profitable. Therefore, we must understand and recognise the role of the comparative advantage. That means if we can offer something to you to produce in Vietnam cheaper than elsewhere, then we will have a chance to attract your investment. This is the criteria. We must first establish what you need and how you can invest in Vietnam more favourably. Then we can try to attract your attention.

Thais have many skills in tourism and that is their advantage. Our geographical proximity is also an advantage (for Thai investors). The Australians, for example, may be better at doing other things. They have cooperated with us in the telecommunications field, not only with satellites but also internal communications.

[Phaisan] Do you agree with some observations that Thailand stands a better chance of investing in certain industries in Vietnam since the level of Thai technology fits in with Vietnamese requirements better than other more advanced technologies?

[Nguyen Trung] Yes, I agree with that, but I can tell you one obstacle which does exist. If we regard the volume of trade between Vietnam and Thailand, I would say that in one aspect, we are very happy. Our two-way trade volume increased threefold last year, from $30 million in 1988 to over $100 million. That's very good.

But we are rather anxious about another aspect. The problem is that our exports to Thailand are large when compared to our imports. Why? This is not because we are not willing to buy more from Thailand. The main problem is one of insufficient marketing on both sides. We want to import more from your country, but we don't know exactly what we can import cheaper from Thailand.

The marketing system is not effective enough. The Thai side does not have good marketing. They offer us things which we do not need. They have offered us goods which we can produce in our own country, such as finished garments. Improvement to marketing is needed on both sides. We don't want a big trade surplus because it is only short-term. We prefer more meaningful, longer-term cooperation.

Khukrit Suggests Sihanouk Declare Himself King

BK1602112590 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 16 Feb 90 p 9

["Soi Suanphlu" column by Khukrit Pramot]

[Excerpts] The Cambodian problem has become a topic of international interest these days. Five permanent members of the UN Security Council have agreed on a peace plan, including the establishment of an interim government as well as a permanent government later on in Cambodia.

Everyone seemed to be happy with the details in the agreement. Meanwhile, the commissions set up by the previous international conference in Paris to pursue a settlement of the Cambodian problem are also optimistic over the prospect for a settlement.

Whatever the case, most of those who are optimistic are either the white people, or foreigners who are not Cambodian. [passage omitted]

The other day, Prince Sihanouk hosted a party at a hotel in Phatthaya for a group of Thai journalists whom he said have been cooperative with him. At the party, Sihanouk mentioned to them that the meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta would produce results, but it would be only a little step toward solving the problem of a stalemate. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk said that there is a big difference between the Khmer Rouge and the Heng Samrin side, and the two will never work together. He said that Australia and other parties would say the dismantling of the Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh is a proposal that is not based on realities.

Prince Sihanouk did not think the Heng Samrin regime would accept the proposal on its dismantling and the setting up of a four-party government in Cambodia. Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge will persist on the two conditions.

Prince Sihanouk has resigned from presidency of the three-party resistance coalition but retains his status as head of the Cambodian state. It seems that all parties accepted his condition.

On the question of a provisional administration by the United Nations in Cambodia prior to free elections, Prince Sihanouk was not so sure whether this could be possible.

Prince Sihanouk said that the Cambodian problem does not involve only politics, but also money and the personality of each leader. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk was once a monarch of Cambodia. The Cambodian people loved and respected him. He relinquished his status to assume political roles, but failed in all of them. Anyway, he has always commanded the respect and loyalty of the Cambodian people just as if he were a king for them.

Cambodia was ruled by monarchs for a thousand years. It was only recently that the country was left without a king. Not all the Cambodian people have adjusted themselves to the new concept and accepted the idea of a no-monarch state.

The person most likely to be able to solve the Cambodian problem is nobody else but Prince Sihanouk himself. The means is in his hands, and he has only to declare himself a king as in the past. He must re-establish the monarchy in Cambodia. I am confident that all the Cambodian people will accept Prince Sihanouk as the sovereign monarch of the Cambodian state.

This will be the first step in the process of achieving peace and neutrality for Cambodia.

Papers Comment on Sihanouk-Hun Sen Talks

BK2502135990

[Editorial Report] On 24 and 25 February respectively, two Thai-language dailies—THAI RAT and BAN MUANG—publish views on the recent meeting in Bangkok between Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

THAI RAT on 24 February publishes on page 3 a 700-word editorial entitled: "Peace in Cambodia." The editorial sees the recent talks in Bangkok, sponsored by Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan, between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Premier Hun Sen as a good omen for settlement of the Cambodian problem.

The editorial notes that no one ever thought that the five-hour talks would come up with a joint communique, which shows that both sides are unprecedentedly reaching some compromises and advancing in similar directions toward the goal of peace in Cambodia. The joint communique shows that both Hun Sen and Sihanouk agree with Australia's proposal for a UN-administered interim administration in Cambodia before general elections are held in that country. The editorial notes: "The implication is that Hun Sen and the countries backing Hun Sen have accepted the fact that a unification of all of the Cambodian factions for the purpose of governing themselves cannot deny the participation of the Khmer Rouge, which is currently the most powerful faction in Cambodia."

An important point in the joint statement is the agreement on the establishment of a supreme national body to rule Cambodia in the future. Presumably, the supreme governing body will comprise the Hun Sen side and the Sihanouk side—the tripartite Cambodian faction. "This indirectly indicates recognition of Khmer Rouge participation," the editorial points out.

Although several more steps will have to be taken toward peace in Cambodia, all of the Thai people are very pleased that the Cambodian people may stop killing each other and will be even more pleased if all of the superpowers completely stop giving assistance in all forms—particularly arms—to any Cambodian factions, the editorial adds.

BAN MUANG on 25 February publishes on page 2 a 700-word "Stop the World" column by "Freeman" entitled: "Prince Sihanouk's Ever Impressive Role." The column says that Prince Sihanouk has, at a certain level, achieved success in talks with Hun Sen on the Cambodian peace process.

The column says that the fact that the recent talks came out with a joint communique agreeing with Australia's proposal for settling the Cambodian problem and declaring agreement, in principle, on establishing a supreme national council and the fact that this occurred before all of the Cambodian factions meet in Jakarta on 26 February means that they were worthwhile.

It is to be expected that such an agreement by Sihanouk and Hun Sen will be discussed further at the upcoming Jakarta talks on the Cambodian problem. The Jakarta meetings will be followed by another international conference on Cambodia in Paris, which will expand on the results of previous meetings, including one in New York of the UN Security Council's five permanent members on formats for a UN interim government and a UN international control mechanism to supervise the ceasefire, safeguard peace, and prepare for general elections in Cambodia.

The column points out that China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the United States are expected to contribute to a budget for UN officials performing duties in the Cambodian peace process, while Thailand, as a country bordering Cambodia, will have to pay some expenses and provide facilities such as communications services.

While all future talks and the peace process are being carried out, Sihanouk will reside in Cambodia to show the world that he is no longer in exile.

"The Cambodian issue will not end easily, but the international community has always been interested in Prince Sihanouk's role," concludes the column.

150 Timber Workers 'Seized by Burmese' Troops

BK2602151590 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1300 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] According to a report from Mae Sot District in Tak Province, about 150 workers of a Thai timber company were seized by Burmese soldiers during a clash between Burmese troops and Karen rebels today.

According to the report, 2,000 Burmese soldiers mounted an assault on a camp of the Karen rebels, about 2 km from the Thai border, and set fire to 12 houses in the village. During the operation, the Burmese soldiers seized 150 workers of a Thai timber company that is located on the Burmese side of the border. The fate of the workers is still not known.

Meanwhile, a REUTER report said that, at the border in Mae Hong Son Province, 200 Burmese soldiers were encircling a group of Karen troops in a dense jungle and a clash ensued.

Selection of Caltex Oil Said 'Questionable'

BK2602023790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb p 13

[By Duangkamon Chottana]

[Text] The Chatchai administration's decision to pick Caltex Oil (Thailand) Ltd for the right to operate the country's fifth oil refinery is questionable in more respects than one.

It clearly falls short of well-known international codes of business practice. US-based Caltex Oil won the right to operate the fifth oil refinery without even having to undergo the normal bidding process, which is a necessity when a project of this gigantic scale is involved.

It was also uncharacteristic of the government to make the "consolation" award to only Caltex, which lost the battle against the Shell Co of Thailand Ltd in the fiercely-contested bidding for the fourth refinery. Other oil companies also want to be equally treated.

Most importantly, giving away the fifth project to Caltex means that the government has overlooked the future oil demand and supply pattern. And, there has so far been no talk about the need to have a fifth refinery, at least as far as the National Economic and Social Development Board and the National Energy Policy Office are concerned.

No sooner had the official announcement been made that Shell had won the battle to operate the fourth refinery and that Caltex would be allowed to operate the fifth, there was widespread criticism over the "unfair" decisionmaking process. Yet, hardly anybody seems to be aware that the episode represented a sub-plot within a larger plot.

Emergence of Wan Chansu: It is believed that Caltex will have a strong force in Wan Chansu, president of the Parliament. Wan, who controls more than 3,000 rai of land near the Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate under the name of the Sura Maharat Group, the biggest local whisky producer, is reported to have secretly teamed up with Caltex for this hard-fought refinery project.

The emergence of Wan immediately sheds enough light on the episode. Wan is tied to Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut, army chief, through a marriage of their offspring. The decision to pick Caltex could perhaps be interpreted as an attempt to further cement the political ties among various groups and possibly reduce the military pressure on the Chat Thai-led coalition government.

Finance Minister Pramuan Saphawasu, who undertook to push the Caltex proposal for consideration by the National Energy Policy Committee, has a son-in-law working for Caltex. Only Pramuan, the prime minister and PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi knew about the proposal to award the fifth refinery to Caltex, and it was not included on the agenda of the committee meeting in advance.

Other members of the committee, Dr Phisit Phakkasem, secretary general of the National Economic and Social Development Board, Siwawong Changkhasiri, deputy permanent secretary of the Industry Ministry, and Piyasawat Amaranan, director of the Office of National Energy Policy, were stunned by the speed at which the project sailed through the deliberation process.

The loser from this incredible turnaround is Shell Co of Thailand. The Thai subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch Group has yet to acquire a plot of 1,000 rai at the Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate, Rayong, necessary to undertake the refinery project with a daily capacity of 145,000 barrels.

It could prove to be difficult for Shell to get hold of the land from the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand as there might be concerted lobbying against allocating the land to Shell. The firm needs to put up its refinery within 18 months after the government licence is issued; otherwise it will lose the right.

The land being sought by Shell at Map Ta Phut will have to be reclaimed from the sea. Nothing has been prepared yet and the company is left with the choice of taking the land away from the National Fertilizer Corporation project, whose future has yet to be decided. That would not be easy either.

The major stumbling block for Shell is that the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand, which has the final say in Map Ta Phut, comes under the control of the Industry Ministry whose minister, Praman Adireksan, is a member of the Chat Thai Party.

Shell is supposed to have its refinery plant ready for production by 1994. And, according to a World Bank study, there should be room for the fifth refinery to be

operating by 1998-2000 to meet the local oil demand. It is unlikely that Caltex would wait that long to make its investment.

It is most likely that Caltex will fight with all its might to prevent Shell from putting up its refinery, not to mention the bleak prospects for Shell in acquiring the land. Caltex looks confident that it will instead become the operator of Thailand's fourth oil refinery.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Pramuan argued that awarding the fifth refinery project to Caltex would reduce any pressure arising out of the trade relations between Thailand and the United States.

This line of argument was also supported by Subin Pinkhayan, the commerce minister and a deputy leader of the Social Action Party, who said the award of the right to Caltex, an American firm, was one way of reducing any friction with Washington.

In fact, the incident represents the strengthening of business ties between various interest groups and Caltex, whose chairman, Sukkhawit Rangsitphon, is known to have strong connections with both the military and political circles.

Kon, who has been supporting Shell all along, has not been in a position to resist the decision in favour of Caltex. Earlier, he was instrumental in working out the compromise between Shell and Caltex over the fourth refinery, with a scheme under which Caltex was allowed to participate as a non-operator with a stake of 15 per cent, against operator Shell's 30 per cent.

The episode also shows in what difficult circumstances bureaucrats are working under the powerful grip of politicians. Phisit, Siwawong or Piyasawat were not consulted about the decision on Caltex. If these people, who are career civil officials, do not have any say in the crucial national policy-making process, it is clear something serious has gone wrong in the check-and-balance system of the country.

Lack of Bidding Said 'Unfair'

BK2602031390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb p 8

[Editorial: "Caltex Deal Unfair"]

[Text] The Chatchai administration, as if it did not have enough problems, started another controversy this weekend by deciding to permit Caltex Oil (Thailand) to build the country's fifth oil refinery, after Caltex lost out to Shell of Thailand in hotly-contested international bidding for rights to operate a fourth plant.

By doing so, the government simply abandoned the rules of fair play. It gave vague and strange explanations to the public through bureaucrats, themselves obviously opposed to such a decision, reached as it was through intense lobbying among influential political figures. Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, Finance Minister Pramuan Saphawasu, and Parliament President Wan Chansu were said to have played a key role in approving the Caltex proposal.

The government also ignored the proposals of other contenders—British Petroleum and Kuwait Oil—which wanted to gain a meaningful presence in Thailand. Needless to say, the two international oil firms have been fuming over the government's complete disregard of acceptable codes of business conduct.

They will certainly have a lot to tell the international business community about how Thailand's bidding system has again become a farce.

This is not the first time the government has changed its mind to please a particular bidder. In fact, many tenders have been seen as a smoke screen to allow the government to eventually pick the competitor of its choice. This sort of shameless practice has been used many times, despite public criticism and the growing negative image of the Thai government as a laughing stock in world business circles.

The Finance Ministry is currently embroiled in a scandal over licences allowing foreign banks to open branches in Thailand. It was alleged that bribes of Bt [baht] 200 million had been demanded from each applicant. The news was not greeted with much surprise in many quarters. More and more, corruption and scandals have become the hallmarks of this administration.

This is not to say that Caltex should have not necessarily been awarded the refinery deal. Major investment projects that genuinely contribute to the country's economic well-being should be welcomed. The problem lies in the government's decision-making process; in allowing Caltex to go ahead with its project without calling a bidding.

The whole thing smacks of underhanded negotiations among influential politicians and businessmen with high stakes. What is even more ridiculous was that the administration wanted to please Washington and avoid trade friction by allowing an American oil firm to build a refinery here, brushing aside British Petroleum and Kuwait Oil.

Again, this is not to say British Petroleum or Kuwait Oil should necessarily be awarded the project. But the winner should be chosen through fair and open competition under known regulations and selection criteria.

What is more of a concern for the Thai nation is that the government approved the Caltex proposal before it prepared the terms and conditions for the company's investment. This is a far cry from the days when Thai Oil and Esso Standard Thailand had to struggle for years before they were permitted to launch expansion projects.

In this case, the government did not even care to flip a coin to pick the winner. What an accommodation to please our American friends—whom it seems would

rather grab our throats than shake hands when it comes to greetings before bilateral trade negotiations.

It now seems a foregone conclusion that Caltex will get approval for its refinery, while there is still doubt over whether Shell will eventually be able to carry out its own multi-billion baht project. There remain political and other barriers not yet exposed to the public. The whole plot is murkier than it appears.

But the major damage has already been done, and revising the decision would only sink the government deeper into the quagmire. It will undoubtedly serve as new ammunition for the Opposition, which is gaining credibility while the administration loses it. Perhaps the government believes that just one more scandal will not hurt, as there is nothing more to lose.

In the future, when the government wants to call an international bidding for a major project, perhaps it shoud clearly stipulate that only firms with the right amount of influence and connections to high office need apply, in order to prevent this sort of embarrassment.

'Defiant' Bank Governor Refuses To Resign

BK2002054390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Feb 90 p 17

[Text] A defiant Bank of Thailand Governor, Kamchon Sathirakun, yesterday declared he would not bow to any pressure to force his resignation.

Mr Kamchon also confirmed that he had proudly done his best, using his own methods, for the country's interest.

"I don't care what people think and say about me," he said.

"These matters cannot force me to resign. If I cannot tolerate these small matters, how can I carry out the major jobs?" he asked when asked whether he would resign.

Mr Kamchon's comments were in response to the group of 10 senior central bank staff who have reportedly mounted a campaign to force the Governor into taking a more independent and decisive stand on the formulation and implementation of monetary policies.

The campaign, which has gathered momentum in recent weeks, follows what senior central bankers perceive as the growing intervention by Finance Minister Pramuan Saphawasu in the running of the country's monetary policies.

The senior central bank officials reportedly sought a meeting with Mr Kamchon at the weekend to express their grave concern about the 'erosion' of the central bank's status.

But Mr Kamchon said the reports by certain newspapers were exaggerated.

"Central bank people always work together as a team. None of my subordinates have defied my orders.

"My office is open to my subordinates. Any of them can come to see me, talk with me, or even make suggestions, so their (the 10 senior central bank officials) meeting with me was quite normal.

"Some newspapers reported that they 'marched' in to demand my resignation. This is exaggerated. None of them has ever mentioned anything like this.

"I obey the principle that if I do anything wrong, any of my subordinates can come and tell me and even criticise me. I don't just want their appreciation.

"I know best what I have done. Some say I am too 'soft', but I know best when I am strong or soft.

"I am in a position, a position approved by His Majesty the King and subject to his Royal Command. I am a man of my own making and I have done my best with pride to serve the country.

"I don't care and I never get angry about what others think and say about me," he said.

When reporters asked again whether he would tender his resignation, Mr Kamchon retorted: "If I am ready to resign, why should I have to tell you?"

Deputy Bank of Thailand Governor Chawalit Thanachanan said the campaign by the 10 senior officials had affected the Bank of Thailand's image.

"But as a central bank official, I cannot say too much," he said.

When asked how Mr Kamchon would respond to the campaign, he replied: "I don't know. You will have to ask the Governor himself."

When asked whether there was any possibility he himself may resign, Mr Chawalit said: "I cannot say yet. This will depend on the situation."

Siri Kancharoendi, the director of the Bank of Thailand's Economic Research Department and one of the 10 senior officials reportedly putting pressure on Mr Kamchon to take a more independent stand, said: "The reports were played up.

"In fact, some newspapers misinterpreted what we are doing. We have never placed any pressure on the Governor to quit. What we asked for was a change in the attitude of the central bank Governor in his dealings with the Finance Minister as well as an adjustment in their relationship."

He declined, however, to say why the attitude of the Governor and his relationship with the Finance Minister needed to be 'adjusted'.

Assistant Governor Roengchai Marakanon, another of those who called on the Governor, also confirmed that his group had no intention of putting pressure on Mr Kamchon to resign.

"We just want the Governor to be stronger in dealing with the Finance Minister," he said.

"We suggested to him that, as the central bank Governor, he should decide what policies should be implemented and then recommend these to the Finance Minister."

He said the 10 senior central bankers would not take any further action as they did not want to endanger the Governor's position.

An informed source said Mr Kamchon did not go to his office in the morning and did not chair a daily "kitchen cabinet" meeting, a meeting of senior central bankers to discuss the central bank's daily activities and major policies.

Official Discusses 1991 Fiscal Budget Estimates

BK0602022990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Feb 90 p 19

[Text] The Government's investment budget will account for 25.7 percent of the total expenditure budget for the 1991 fiscal year, a senior official said.

At the same time, the budget for next fiscal year will be a balanced one, meaning the total expenditure will not exceed the projected revenue collection of the Government, Budget Bureau Director-General Bodi Chunnanon said.

This fiscal year, the Government's investment budget accounted for 24.5 percent of the total budget and increased by 53 percent over fiscal 1989.

Mr Bodi said the Government's policy to set a balanced budget next fiscal year was aimed at maintaining the national economic growth as well as distributing wealth to all sectors.

The Government will also set budgets for improving the quality of human resources, increasing salaries of civil servants to prevent a brain drain, improving and conserving environment, and developing science and technology.

Mr Bodi said the four government agencies responsible for budget setting—the Budget Bureau, Bank of Thailand, Fiscal Policy office, and National Economic and Social Development Board—had agreed to the concept of a balanced budget for next fiscal year.

The 1991 fiscal budget will increase in the range of 10-16 percent from this year's 335,000 million baht. This will match the projected revenue collection of 374,000-385,000 million baht, an increase of about 10 percent from the revised target of 340,000-350,000 million baht this fiscal year.

Mr Bodi said the balanced budget would not affect the investment in infrastructure projects next fiscal year.

He noted that although oil prices were likely to increase and the Finance Ministry planned to impose the value-added tax system, by which the Government's revenue collection might be affected, the balanced budget was still viable.

This was because of the Government's budget for loan repayments, which will account for about 15-16 percent of the total budget, compared to 20 percent this fiscal year.

He said, however, the fixed budget might increase by around 14,000-15,000 million baht if the Government raised civil servants' salaries.

Other projections in drafting the budget are that the gross domestic product next year will grow by the same rate as this year to 2,278,000 million baht from 2,000,000 million baht, while the inflation rate in 1991 is expected to be 5.5-6 percent.

Vietnam

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach on Cambodia

PM2702082290 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Feb 90 p 3

[Jean-Claude Pomonti dispatch: "Chinese Position on Cambodia Seems To Have Become 'More Flexible'"]

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnamese officials are showing cautious optimism about the possibility of concluding an agreement on Cambodia fairly quickly. "There are signs of flexibility in the Chinese position," Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach explained to us in Hanoi on Thursday 22 February where Roland Dumas, his French counterpart, was expected on Friday. Mr. Thach even thinks that the "modification" of the Chinese position could make it possible to reach a settlement this year.

Mr. Thach stressed that since the first meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in Paris, the Chinese have abandoned their "intransigence" regarding the formation of a "quadripartite Cambodian government" before elections are held. "Since that meeting, the Chinese have said that in the absence of such a government, a UN administration could be accepted," he said. In other words, it would be possible to remove the major obstacle presented by participation by the Khmer Rouge—one of the four Khmer factions—in a provisional government. "We would therefore remove the problem of the legal recognition of the Khmer Rouge," according to Mr. Thach, who sees no obstacle to the latter's being included in what he calls "Prince Sihanouk's government."

Hanoi and Phnom Penh are hostile to the simultaneous "dismantling" of the two Cambodian governments—that of Prince Sihanouk and that of Mr. Hun Sen—and to the formation of a quadripartite government to replace them. Since the beginning of the year, they have even been advocating that if there is a cease-fire in the country, each government should administer the area it controls—a solution which they particularly favor because Mr. Hun Sen's regime still holds most of Cambodia. Under these conditions, the fact that China "is no longer insisting on the formation of a quadripartite government is a sign of change which says a great deal," Mr Thach said, adding that "the Chinese do not want the embarrassment of another genocide perpetrated by Pol Pot." "China," he summed up with a broad smile, "is a big box of surprises. In the past the Chinese have abandoned their pawns several times. They stopped supporting the Maoist parties in the region. The Vietnamese were formerly their comrades, but they dropped them too."

According to the Vietnamese foreign minister, the Paris international conference on Cambodia last August was hampered by "two secondary questions": In addition to that of "the establishment of a quadripartite government," there was the question of the "dismantling of the two existing governments in Cambodia." Since the start

of this year, these "two blind alleys" have been avoided thanks to a different approach, proposed by Australia and ratified by the "Five," which consists of making UN intervention the pivot of a settlement. In this framework, he therefore regards as "an important step" the fact that Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen agreed in Bangkok on Wednesday "on the formation of a Supreme National Council representing Cambodia's sovereignty and on the UN role in settling the Cambodian problem."

Before the "informal meeting" on Cambodia in Jakarta—which will be attended by the four Cambodian factions, France, and Australia on 26 to 28 February—the Vietnamese seem to believe that there can be a breakthrough in negotiations. At all events, Mr. Thach added, "Jakarta must work. If it does not, it will be a bad thing for everyone."

Dissolution of Phnom Penh Government Opposed

BK2702142390 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] At present, some foreign forces are demanding the dissolution of the Cambodian Government. The Voice of Vietnam has this comment:

The Phnom Penh government, elected by the Cambodian people, has been effectively controlling all activities throughout the country. During the past 11 years, the Cambodian people have achieved a great deal. The socioeconomic policies duly adopted by the State of Cambodia respond to the people's aspirations and interests. The Cambodian Armed Forces have increased rapidly, capable of defending the country since Vietnam's pullout in September last year. Since then, the State of Cambodia has still maintained control all over the country. It has at the same time unceasingly proved its goodwill and responsibility in implementing the policy of national reconciliation, (?maintaining security), and in seeking an equitable political solution to the Cambodian issue.

The demand for the dissolution of the Cambodian Government is unacceptable. Cambodian internal affairs must be solved by the people themselves and other countries should respect the Cambodians' right to self-determination. At present, the State of Cambodia is a unique force which can check the recurrence of genocidal practices. Its dissolution will only lead to chaos in the country and create conditions for the return to power of the genocidal clique.

Senator Edmund Muskie, former U.S. secretary of state and director of the U.S. Policy Research Center, returning from Cambodia, said: The U.S. should renounce its demand for the dissolution of the Phnom Penh because it would cause chaos and will only benefit the Khmer Rouge. The French magazine NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR issue from 22 to 28 February carried an article filed by its correspondent, Mr. Jean Lacouture, after returning from Cambodia, which called on the French Government to settle its relations with Cambodia. Mr. Jean Lacouture held that the French Government should no longer avoid recognition of the Hun Sen government whatever the attitude of the other Western countries might be. In January, French President Francois Mitterrand declared in Paris that the Phnom Penh government is a unique to oppose the danger of Khmer Rouge. It is necessary to create favorable conditions for the Hun Sen government.

Hun Sen, Sihanouk Obtain 'Surprising Results'

BK2602110490 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the past two years, Chairman Hun Sen and Sihanouk have met five times to discuss the Cambodian issue. However, no results have come out, and there remain major difficulties. Five days ago, they met again in Bangkok. This was their sixth meeting, which was arranged by the Thai prime minister. In this meeting, they discussed for five hours and obtained surprising results. They had a thorough discussion of events and examined the issues preventing the settlement of the Cambodian problem. And, for the first time, they had an identity of views in solving the Cambodian problem. In a joint communique on the meeting, Chairman Hun Sen and Sihanouk agreed that the UN presence at an appropriate level in Cambodia is essential and should be encouraged. They also agreed to set up a supreme national body to symbolize Cambodia's national sovereignty and national unity.

The Hun Sen-Sihanouk agreement on the UN presence at an appropriate level is very important. That is the formula rejected by Khmer Rouge and China. Generally, all agreements reached at the sixth meeting of Hun Sen and Sihanouk are of important significance. These agreements were reached only five days before the opening of the informal meeting on Cambodia, IMC, in Jakarta. Certainly, they will positively affect the IMC, because these agreements created an important turning point in the process of solving the Cambodian issue, stressing the need to let the Cambodians solve their internal affairs themselves.

Public opinion holds that at the IMC, Mr. Sihanouk should enhance his positive views to contribute to solving the Cambodian issue in conformity with the aspirations and interests of the Cambodian people. The IMC is now taking place in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, with the participation of all Cambodian factions and countries concerned. Talking about the IMC, people remember the results reached at the Bangkok meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Sihanouk and the friendly atmosphere of that meeting. They remember the images of Hun Sen and Sihanouk sitting and smiling together, which seem to reflect their mutual understanding and sympathy. Public opinion hopes that their

actions will be continued at the IMC and they will really be a fine prelude for the informal meeting on Cambodia.

Reports of Vietnamese Troops in Cambodia Denied

BK2602150790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1450 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Recently, a number of foreign mass media agencies have spread reports that Vietnam and the State of Cambodia have agreed to send Vietnamese troops back to Cambodia. The VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to announce that these are totally fabricated news reported with ill intentions.

French Foreign Minister Dumas Concludes Visit

Communique Issued

BK2502161590 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 25—The following communique was distributed at a press conference here this afternoon after a three-day visit to Hanoi by French Minister for External Relations Roland Dumas:

Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Mr. Roland Dumas, minister of state and minister for external relations of the French Republic, cochaired on February 24 and 25, 1990, in Hanoi the Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

This first meeting of the commission, which was set up by the agreement on cooperation signed in Paris in June 1989, is aimed at improving the political, economic and cultural relations between Vietnam and France.

The two parties stressed with joy the progress in the cooperation in the cultural, scientific and technical domains which makes Vietnam from now on the first-rate partner of France in Asia. They made a broad review of the themes of this cooperation and confirmed the priorities set in December 1989 by the specialized joint commission. They insisted on the necessity to lay more stress in the future on personnel training and on the relations between technical cooperation and economic actions.

In the economic field, the French and Vietnamese delegations made a profound review of their present relations and determined the directions for their development.

The commission noted with satisfaction the notable growth of commercial exchanges between the two countries which doubled in 1989 compared with 1988. It hoped that these exchanges would continue to grow and diversify more in the future in order to better correspond to the privileged relations between Vietnam and France.

The two parties noted with regret that an agreement of confirmation between Vietnam and the International Monetary Fund has not yet been signed in spite of the efforts on the part of Vietnam. They expressed the hope that these difficulties would be quickly overcome and France once again confirmed its support to Vietnam in these talks. Pending the result of such negotiations, cooperation between the two countries should, nevertheless, be favored.

Mr. Roland Dumas announced the granting by France of a donation of 45 million francs which would facilitate the beginning of the priority projects.

In this regard, the two parties continued and deepened the identification of the sections of cooperation as have been stated in the agreement signed in June 1989, i.e. agriculture and agricultural food, infrastructure, transport and energy, telecommunications, information and electronics, healthcare and biotechnology, and personnel training.

The two parties also heard many enterprises which take part in the French delegation outline the investment projects they intend to make in their sectors in Vietnam.

The two parties agreed that the projects must be subject to careful studies. A French interministerial mission will come to Vietnam in a month's time in order to draw up the lists of top priority projects and to determine the modalities of their financing with France's aid.

Finally, the two parties noted with satisfaction the progress recorded in the negotiations on an agreement to encourage and protect investments. Also in a month's time, the two parties will strive to finalize the negotiations on some points still under discussion and to sign a definitive accord.

At the end of the work of the commission, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach and Mr. Roland Dumas expressed the hope that the administrations and enterprises of the two countries would coordinate even more closely their actions in order to contribute to the intensification of the bilateral relations.

Meets Nguyen Van Linh

BK2602145090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] On 26 February, at the Thong Nhat Conference Hall in Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, cordially received His Excellency Roland Dumas, minister of foreign affairs of the French Republic, who was on an official visit to our country.

Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh welcomed the visit to Vietnam by the French Republic's foreign minister, considering it a new manifestation of the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. His Excellency Dumas thanked the comrade general secretary for receiving his delegation and reaffirmed the French Government's resolve to strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. Also attending the reception on the Vietnamese side was Nguyen Co Thach, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, and on the French side were high-ranking officials of the French ministries of foreign

affairs, economy, and finance, and Blanchemaison, French ambassador to Vietnam.

Kouchner on Refugees

BK2402121290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 24 (AFP)—Vietnam has promised it would stop having Vietnamese refugees forcibly repatriated, while France has pledged to make it easier for the refugees to return voluntarily, a top French official said Saturday [24 February]. "France opposes these forced returns and urges every effort to convince and prepare for the voluntary return of the Vietnamese," Bernard Kouchner, minister for humanitarian action, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

A group of 51 Vietnamese was forcibly returned to Vietnam from the British colony of Hong Kong in December, a move that drew sharp criticism from several nations, including the United States. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach "told me yesterday that he was forced to accept these Vietnamese and that that would not happen again," said Mr. Kouchner, who was accompanying French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on a four-day visit. "France is ready to contribute substantially to reintegration operations for Vietnamese who return voluntarily, in a humanitarian spirit and infused with human rights," Mr. Kouchner. He said there was a significant decline in human rights during December's forced repatriation.

Some 57,000 Vietnamese are currently in Hong Kong, about 70 percent of whom are considered economic migrants who, according to British authorities, must be returned to Vietnam willingly or not. But aid must be used judiciously to avoid "rebuilding a one-party country," Mr. Kouchner said, noting that Vietnam "lags behind in the opening up among socialist countries." He added, "one must convince the Vietnamese of Hong Kong that it's over, they will no longer find a host country, and work for their return. Vietnam is a country of misery. I understand the boat people who leave and for that reason I think that the problem must be settled here," said Mr. Kouchner, who has asked to meet those forcibly repatriated last December.

Britain and Vietnam were continuing to negotiate for the involuntary return of Vietnamese boat people after British Envoy Francis Maude failed to obtain an agreement on the issue at the end of a visit to Hanoi last week.

Relations Encouraged

BK2502041490 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 24 Feb 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 24—The daily NHAN DAN today calls for joint efforts to promote friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and France.

In an article occasioned by the current visit to Vietnam of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, the paper recalls the history of Vietnamese-French relations over the past decades. It says:

"The history of the Vietnamese-French relations covers a long period of time with many ups and downs which left deep imprints on the two nations. The peoples of the two countries have traditionally shared mutual understanding and sympathy and overcome all obstacles to build up a new relation of friendship and cooperation. On April 12, 1973 the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the French Republic formally established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level right after the U.S. bombing of the office of the then French representation in Hanoi.

Five years later Prime Minister Pham Van Dong paid an official friendship visit to the French Republic at the invitation of Prime Minister Raymond Barre, who described the presence of Mr. Pham Van Dong in Paris as "a meeting of close friends after a long separation."

The beginnings of the new period of Vietnamese-French relations were promising. Yet, it is regrettable that throughout the last decade those relations have seen no further progress. Some political circles in Paris, due to the lack of an objective outlook, have shown a lukewarm attitude and even wanted to block efforts to further promote relations with Vietnam. Broad public opinion in France recently has criticized this unenlightened policy. Many said that the French-Vietnamese relations have been left to "drift wastefully" over the past decade and that it is now the right time for the French to renew their ties with Vietnam if they do not want to miss "the last chance for French companies to cast an anchor in Asia." A senior French official remarked: "To France, Vietnam must be the first of all priorities. Southeast Asia is a land full of vitality where France is lagging too far behind others."

The visit to France in June 1989 by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, was regarded as a new landmark in the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. While receiving Nguyen Co Thach, President Francois Mitterand expressed his keen interest in developing the multi-faceted relations between the two countries as well as the fine prospects of these relations. French Prime Minister Michel Rocard noted that a new page has opened in the traditional Franco-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation in the new period and new conditions. On that occasion, Vietnam and France signed a number of cooperation agreements in various fields and officially set up the Vietnam-France Intergovernmental Commission with Foreign Ministers Nguyen Co Thach and Roland Dumas as cochairmen. The first session of the commission is to take place during the current Vietnam visit by Mr. Roland Dumas.

Early last year, a symposium on cooperation and trade with Vietnam was organized by the French Centre for

External Commerce (CFCE) at which the representatives of more than 200 banks and private companies and government offices of France showed keen interest in trading and cooperating with Vietnam. France is among the first West and North European countries to respond to Vietnam's Law on Investment right after is was promulgated. In mid-June last year, a high-ranking delegation of the National Council of French Employers (CNPF) which included representatives of 18 major companies paid a working visit to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Dozens of other major companies have expressed their desire to do business in Vietnam and are waiting for permission.

Vietnam and France are executing 18 cooperation projects of various scales, including seven of state-level, representing more than half of the contracts Vietnam has signed with nonsocialist countries.

Bilateral cooperation in culture, science and technology, which has been maintained for many years now, has brought about practical results for both sides. The volume of goods exchange between the two countries is on a constant rise, reaching 600 million francs in the peak year.

We wish the current working visit of Minister Roland Dumas, his first to Vietnam, fine success in the interests of both countries.

Leaves Ho Chi Minh City

BK2602152890 Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 26—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Ho Chi Minh City today successfully concluding his official friendship visit to Vietnam from February 23-26, 1990.

While in Vietnam, Minister Roland Dumas and his party visited the late President Ho Chi Minh's home and and office in Hanoi. They were received on separate occasions by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, State Council president; Do Muoi and Vo Nguyen Giap, respectively chairman and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The French guests also attended a ceremony to inaugurate a data processing centre in Ho Chi Minh City.

Japanese Foreign Affairs Official Tanino Visits

Will Be Asked for Cooperation

OW2302083090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1418 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb. 22 (KYODO)—Vietnam will urge Japan to sign an accord between the two nations to promote cooperation in economic, scientific and cultural fields at a three-day meeting with a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official, informed sources said Thursday. The sources also said Hanoi signed such agreements with both France and Italy last year.

Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the Japanese Foreign Minister Asian Affairs Bureau, is scheduled to arrive here Friday for talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. Tanino is expected to discuss with Thach the United Nations peace initiative in Cambodia and renewed economic cooperation with Vietnam. He will also discuss a date for Thach's visit to Japan, which will most likely be in April or May. Japanese economic cooperation with Vietnam has been frozen, except for humanitarian aid, since the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia in December 1978. Meanwhile, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will visit Hanoi on Friday to hold the first talks between France and Vietnam under a bilateral economic cultural and scientific accord.

Arrives, Meets Officials

BK2502160590 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 25—Sakutaro Tanino, director of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, paid a visit to Vietnam from February 23-25.

Sakutaro Tanino and his party were received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and had working sessions with Vu Khoan, assistant to the foreign minister. The two sides compared notes on the relations between the two countries and on international issues of mutual concern.

President of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association Vu Tuyen Hoang also received the Japanese guests.

Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Kuniaki Asmura was present on those occasions.

Meets Nguyen Co Thach

OW2302140590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb. 23 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Ministry emissary Sakutaro Tanino paid a courtesy call on Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach Friday at the outset of Japan's first high-level official contact with Hanoi in 11 years. Officials said the hour-long meeting focused on the Cambodian conflict and bilateral ties. No further details were disclosed.

Tanino, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, is the first senior Japanese official to visit here since the 1978 Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia. Tanino apparently sounded out Hanoi's position on Cambodia ahead of an international conference on Cambodia to be held next week in Jakarta. Thach will represent Vietnam at the three-day Jakarta meeting opening on Monday. Bilateral ties between Japan and Vietnam have thawed since Vietnam pulled its troops out of Cambodian in September last year. Thach has expressed his wish to visit Japan. Tanino arrived in

Hanoi earlier Friday from Ho Chi Minh City where he met with Masaru Kono, director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's First Southeast Asian Division. Kono had just concluded a visit to Phnom Penh.

Aid Contingent on Settlement

OW2402230990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb. 24 (KYODO)—Visiting Japanese Foreign Ministry Emissary Sakutaro Tanino on Saturday told Vietnamese officials that Japan cannot resume its economic cooperation to Vietnam unless a comprehensive settlement of the 11-year-old Cambodian conflict is realized, Japanese officials said. Japanese economic cooperation to Vietnam, except humanitarian aid, has been frozen since Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978.

Tanino, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, held the first high-level official contacts between the two nations in 11 years. During the two-day talks, Tanino stressed the need for a comprehensive and permanent settlement of the Cambodian question by setting up an interim coalition government including all four rival factions, the officials said. However, Vietnam rejected the Japanese proposal, the officials added. Although Tanino asked Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to visit Japan during the talks, the two sides could not decide on the timing of the visit, the officials said.

Australia

Hawke Favors Antartic Nature Reserve Proposal

Optimistic on Success of Proposal

BK2502111390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Hawke, is optimistic that an Australian-French proposal to establish the Antarctic as a nature reserve will succeed. Mr. Hawke said he believed the United States would not sign the existing convention which provides for restricted mining in the Antarctic. He said there was considerable enthusiasm for the proposal to establish a nature reserve in the region. The prime minister suggested the United States and Britain would be influenced by public opposition to Antarctic mining. Campaigning in Hobart for next month's federal election, Mr Hawke announced plans to spend $1 million [currency not specified] setting up an Antarctic foundation in the Tasmanian capital aimed at increasing awareness of the frozen continent.

Applauds New Zealand's Decision

BK2702053790 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0300 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Hawke, has applauded a New Zealand decision to set aside ratification of the Antarctic Minerals Convention. New Zealand, which had proposed signing the convention, is one of the seven claimant states to the Antarctic treaty.

A Radio Australia political correspondent, Graeme Weld, says Wellington's change of heart lends weight to the French-Australian campaign to a wilderness reserve [as heard] in the Antarctic.

Hawke, Peacock Satisfied With Election Debate

BK2602065890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Hawke, and the opposition leader, Mr. Peacock, are back to the hustings today after a nationally televised election debate. Radio Australia's political correspondent Graeme Weld says the opposition leader is confident he won the debate while the prime minister says he felt comfortable and enjoyed the occasion.

During the debate, our correspondent says Mr. Peacock declared society had become unfair under Labor while Mr. Hawke said a coalition which could not govern itself could not govern the country. Weld says Mr. Hawke's approach, initially subdued and measured, became sharper as the debate went on. Mr. Peacock, on the other hand, had maintained a determined, forceful approach sometimes dismissive of the prime minister.

Mr. Hawke said that while people had accepted the need for high interest rates to curb demand, rates were now coming down. Mr. Peacock promised significant cuts to interest rates but would not repeat a previous prediction of massive fall under a Liberal-National coalition government. The opposition leader said the economy was on the brink of collapse and the coalition offered a new era while the prime minister offered a united, knowledgeable government and economic growth.

Government Welcomes Papua New Guinea Peace Talks

BK2202063990 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Australia has welcomed the possibility of peace talks between rebels on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville and the Papua New Guinea Government.

Radio Australia's diplomatic reporter in Canberra, Stuart Heather, says the government is taking a very positive view of the talks' outcome with the foreign affairs minister, Senator Gareth Evans, already mentioning Australia's willingness to help Bougainville's reconstruction once there is a durable settlement.

Senator Evans' comments follow the news that rebels on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville have nominated the country's justice minister, Mr Narakobi, and the foreign affairs minister, Mr Somare, as people they are prepared to meet in peace talks. Senator Evans says the contacts are an encouraging development which he hopes will lead to a durable cease-fire in the North Solomon's province and then to a lasting political settlement.

Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent, Sean Dorney, says moves toward a cease-fire are gathering momentum following a breakthrough between the government and the rebels. Dorney says that talks established through intermediaries by the Papua New Guinea prime minister, Mr Namaliu, and the leadership of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, the BRA, have been followed by further communications today. The rebels have told the government they would be prepared to meet a government team led by Mr Narakobi and Mr Somare.

The Australian prime minister, Mr Hawke, has told Mr Namaliu by telephone of Australia's pleasure at the development.

Government Announces Tax Cuts, Wage Increases

BK2102110490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Canberra, Feb 21 (AFP)—Australia's Labor government rolled out the big guns here Wednesday [21 February] in the March 24 election campaign with a package of tax cuts and wage rises giving workers 50 Australian dollars (38 U.S.) more a week.

Treasurer Paul Keating said in a statement that 1.2 billion dollars (910 million U.S.) would be cut from personal taxes in the 1990-91 fiscal year to June 30—2.5

billion dollars (1.89 billion U.S.) in a full year—with wages up seven per cent against a forecast inflation rate of six per cent.

The package was worth around 50 dollars a week to average income earners—36 dollars (27.25 U.S.) of that from the wage rise—but would not take full effect until the end of the fiscal year.

"It's 50 dollars of sensible, affordable increases which would not be paid under any other government," Mr. Keating told a news conference.

Opposition treasury spokesman John Hewson said that any gains from the package would be "short-lived," being lost by higher inflation and interest rates.

Mr. Keating's statement, the key plank in the Labor government re-election platform, included details of a shake-up in unemployment benefits.

The deal on wage rises struck with trade unions included government support for a further three per cent increase in employer contributions to private pension, or superannuation, schemes over two years from May 1990.

The treasurer said that latest figures showed the budget surplus in 1989-90 would come in at 9.33 billion dollars (7.06 billion U.S.), slightly above his forecast 9.12 billion dollars (6.9 billion U.S.).

Mr. Keating foreshadowed additional spending for 1990-91 totalling 323 million dollars (244 million U.S.) offset by 348 million dollars (263 million U.S.) in spending cuts.

Extra spending commitments would be announced by Prime Minister Bob Hawke later in the lead up to the March 24 poll, at which he aims to secure an unprecedented fourth term for Labor.

The government was expected to increase spending on roads and child care, in line with promises made by the conservative liberal-national party coalition.

The only revenue-raising measure announced by Mr. Keating was an increased sales tax on luxury vehicles selling for more than 43,000 dollars (32,500 U.S.)—50 per cent from 30 per cent effective April 1—which was expected to raise 105 million dollars (79.5 million U.S.) in 1990-91.

The deal with the Australian Council of Trade Unions [ACTU] gives a 1.5 per cent wage increase in the three months to the end of December 1990, with a further 12 dollars (9.10 U.S.) a week increase six months later.

Unions would also be allowed to negotiate further rises with employers based on productivity and profitability gains.

Mr. Keating said that as a result of the wages agreement, a worker on average pay of about 540 dollars (409 U.S.) a week could expect by June 1991 a lift in wages of more than 36 dollars (27.25 U.S.) and a tax cut of 7.50 dollars (5.70 U.S.), with more still to come from previous wage deals.

The government's plan for Australia's unemployed came in response to one from the opposition proposing that benefits be cut off after nine months, with only those proving hardship eligible for continued assistance.

The opposition's Economic Action Plan (EAP) released last October estimated a saving of 835 million dollars (632 million U.S.), but was criticised as punishing the long-term unemployed.

Labor's reply was a dual system to ensure that unemployment benefits went only to people trying to find work, making it tougher for jobless people to get relief but providing more incentive to join training programs.

People still unemployed after a year would lose their benefits and would have to reapply for a separate allowance requiring a formal contract to undergo job training.

Mr. Keating said that the economy was making a "soft landing" from its recent periods of high growth, with imports significantly down from their peak and exports holding up.

The treasurer said that the wages agreement with the ACTU would keep inflation—at 7.8 per cent in the year to last December 31—in decline.

Fiji

British Embassy on Military Aid, Human Rights

BK2602123790 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 26 Feb 90

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] A spokesman for the British Embassy in Suva says the British Government has no qualms about training officers of the Fiji military forces. Mr. (Paul Harvey) says the British Government believes the human rights situation in Fiji is improving and is good when compared on an international basis. Tony Hastings filed this report on Britain's military contacts with Fiji.

[Begin recording] [Hastings] Unlike Australia and New Zealand, Britain did not suspend military aid to Fiji following the 1987 coups. However, according to the British Government, there was a period in 1987 and early 1988 when Fiji did not request any military assistance from Britain. At present, the British train up to three Fiji military forces officers in Britain each year, and according to Mr. (Harvey), a British officer is likely to be sent to Fiji to prepare Fiji officers for training in Britain. But he says the total number of trainees sent to Britain will not be increased.

Britain also supplies the Fiji military forces with non-lethal equipment such as uniforms and radios. I asked Mr. (Harvey) if the British Government has any qualms about aiding the Army which has twice conducted military coups.

[(Harvey)] No, overseas political considerations are taken into account when considering military aid. But we have no qualms about providing assistance to the Fiji military forces. In our view, it is a good thing to ensure that military officers have had good training and we think that the military establishments in Britain are very well equipped to do this.

[Hastings] Does Britain intend to restore the export of military equipment to Fiji at this stage?

[(Harvey)] Well, the export of military equipment comes under completely different regulations, and the policy [words indistinct] all exports of military equipment through Britain require special export license, and political considerations are taken into account in deciding when to issue an export license, and we have exported equipment for use by military forces in Fiji since the 1987 coups but this equipment has been noncontroversial, like military uniforms and radio equipment.

[Hastings] I would presume that it would be the role of the British Embassy in Fiji to provide the political assessment to the British Government, and I would guess that that must include some sort of human rights assessment, is that correct?

[(Harvey)] Yes, we would certainly provide guidance and have an input into decisions on export licenses for military equipment and so on, and we do keep an eye on the human rights situation in Fiji as part of our (?base).

[Hastings] Well, what assessment on human rights have you given to the British Government?

[(Harvey)] I think I probably best not get into too much detail on that one, [words indistinct]?

[Hastings] Right. Well, can I put this to you. In a letter from the parliamentary under secretary of state, (Tim Sainsbury), to a British Labor Party MP [member of parliament], Mr. (Sainsbury) says our ambassador in Suva confirmed that there are no legal prohibitions on freedom of expression and assembly in Fiji at present. The authorities do have discretionary powers to restrict these freedoms, and they have exercised those powers in the past. It is however true to say that there is some criticism of the Fiji Government in the Fiji press from time to time?

[(Harvey)] Yes, that advice would have been based totally on our assessment that was made locally here.

[Hastings] Well, would it be fair to say then that the British Government thinks that the human rights situation in Fiji is fairly good or at least improving?

[(Harvey)] Yes. I think it would be fair to say that we think the human rights situation here by comparison on an international basis is quite good. And certainly the recent trend [words indistinct] to see an improvement in the situation.

[Hastings] Well, has it improved sufficiently to warrant Britain exporting lethal weapons to Fiji?

[(Harvey)] Again, I do not think I can make an on-the-record statement on that particular point. [end recording]

Mr. (Paul Harvey) of the British Embassy in Fiji.

Meanwhile, a former senior New Zealand Army officer, Brigadier General (Ian Forbe), will go to Fiji in a private capacity to help reorganize the Fiji Army training, and several countries, including Malaysia, Pakistan, Indonesia, and France, are believed to have trained small numbers of Fiji officers.

Retired New Zealand Officer To Train Fijians

BK1902111690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] A former New Zealand army officer has accepted an invitation from Major General Sitiveni Rabuka to help reorganize the training of the Fiji Army.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS [AAP] said, Brigadier Ian (Forbe) retired from the New Zealand Army as a colonel in 1979 and then served in the Fiji Army until 1983. He remains on the Fiji Army reserve list.

Brigadier (Forbe) said the middle rank officers in Fiji are not getting the kind of professional training they have always had access to in the past and that his job would be to run a few courses.

AAP said the brigadier said in a radio interview in Wellington that all of his students-to-be were people that he had known coming up through the ranks. Brigadier (Forbe) rejected a claim by the Coalition for Democracy in Fiji, that he would be aiding and abetting treason by training an army which enforces the decrees of the nonelected government.

He said that was certainly not how he saw it, rather that it was a job which has to be done and there were many other countries with military understandings and military cooperation with Fiji. He said Fiji's Army, about the same size as New Zealand's, was comparatively large because Fiji was probably the most active peacekeeping nation in the world with troops in Lebanon, Sinai, Namibia, and Afghanistan.

Papua New Guinea

Minister Criticizes Evans Over Remarks at Talks

BK2702055290 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0600 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Papua New Guinea's justice minister has criticized the Australian foreign minister over statements welcoming peace talks on Bougainville. Mr. Bernard Narakobi says comments made by Senator Evans were unnecessary and uncalled for.

The justice minister is to head the Papua New Guinea Government delegation to what could be the first substantive dialogue with secessionist rebels since the Bougainville dispute flared 15 months ago.

Last week, Senator Evans said Australia warmly welcomed the talks and hoped they would lead to a durable cease-fire and political settlement.

Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent, Sean Dorney, quotes Mr. Narakobi as saying the Australian foreign minister should keep quiet. If Papua New Guinea wanted help or comments from foreigners, the justice minister said it would ask for them.